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National Institute on Drug Abuse

NATIONAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY ON DRUG ABUSE:

Highlights 1990

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Public Health Service
Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration

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NATIONAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY ON DRUG ABUSE:

HIGHLIGHTS 1990

National Institute on Drug Abuse
Division of Epidemiology and Prevention Research
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, Maryland 20857

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
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I. INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose of This Report

This report presents highlights of the findings from the 1990 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse (NHSDA). The report provides basic information about the use of illicit drugs, alcohol, and tobacco among members of the U.S. household population aged 12 and older. Illicit drugs include illegal drugs such as marijuana and cocaine as well as prescription-type psychotherapeutic drugs that are used for nonmedical purposes. It is one of a series of reports from the 1990 NHSDA (see a description of the two other major reports, below). Specifically, the Highlights report:

- Provides an overview of the prevalence of use of illicit drugs, alcohol, and tobacco for the U.S. household population and for four age groups: youth (12 to 17), young adults (18 to 25), middle adults (26 to 34), and older adults (35 and older);
- Presents information about trends in the use of illicit drugs, alcohol, and tobacco since the 1970s;
- Examines the demographic correlates of the use of illicit drugs, alcohol, and tobacco; and
- Provides information about patterns of use of illicit drugs and alcohol, perceptions of the harmfulness of using illicit drugs, alcohol, and tobacco, and opportunities to use drugs.

Unlike the two other major reports on the 1990 NHSDA, much of the data in the Highlights report is presented in graphic displays. Many of the figures provide a scale for estimating the values of the data points but not the data values themselves. Estimates for the data points in most of the figures are presented in the Appendix.

B. The National Household Survey on Drug Abuse

The 1990 National Household Survey is the tenth in a series whose primary purpose is to measure the prevalence and correlates of drug use in the United States. The current study was sponsored by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) with additional support provided by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

A description of the 1990 survey, including information on sampling, data collection, and a more detailed presentation of prevalence estimates and correlates, is found in two other volumes from the study:

- National Household Survey on Drug Abuse: Population Estimates 1990. This report provides estimates of the percentages and numbers of people in the U.S. household population who have used illicit drugs, alcohol, and tobacco in their lifetimes, in the past year, or in the past month. Information is also presented about needle use and the frequency of use of marijuana, cocaine, and alcohol. Information is presented in tabular form with little or no explanatory text.

- National Household Survey on Drug Abuse: Main Findings 1990. This report provides detailed information on the prevalence and demographic correlates of use of illicit drugs, alcohol, and tobacco, frequency of use, problems associated with use, patterns of use, and perceptions of the harmfulness of use of illicit drugs, alcohol, and tobacco.

C. Survey Methodology

The methodology used for the 1990 NHSDA was similar to that used for each of the nine previous National Household Surveys. A national probability sample of households in the coterminous United States was selected from 100 primary sampling units. Alaska and Hawaii have not been included in the sample because of logistic and cost considerations. The sample design for the 1990 survey was similar to that of earlier years, but differed in that the Washington, DC, Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) was oversampled.

In each selected household, a roster recording the age, race/ethnicity, and sex of all household members aged 12 and older was completed. Using a random sampling procedure, either two, one, or no respondents were selected to be interviewed. (Selection probabilities were based on the race/ethnicity of the head of household and the ages of household members.) The procedure was designed to control the sample sizes for age and racial/ethnic groups of interest. After selection, respondents were interviewed in person in their homes by trained interviewers. The interview process included use of self-administered answer sheets and other procedures designed to assure respondents that their responses to sensitive questions would be kept confidential.

A small proportion (fewer than 2%) of the total U.S. population, however, is not part of the household population and were therefore excluded from the sample: those residing in group quarters (military installations, correctional institutions, college dormitories, and hospitals) and those without a permanent residence (homeless people and residents of single rooms in hotels). To the extent that some of these groups (e.g., prisoners or transients) have higher rates of use than does the household population, the NHSDA may yield somewhat conservative estimates of drug use in the total population. This may be particularly true for prevalence estimates of rarely used drugs such as heroin.

The 1990 NHSDA surveyed a representative sample of 9,259 individuals from the household population. Sample sizes for the major demographic groups examined in the NHSDA are found in the Appendix, Table A.1. This table includes sample sizes for the total sample and for age, sex, race/ethnicity, region, and population density groups. These numbers are not shown in the text tables and figures, but sample sizes for other subgroups are presented in the text tables and figures. The estimated number of persons in the total U.S. household population aged 12 and over and in demographic subgroups is found in the Appendix, Table A.2.

D. Measures of Drug Use

The following drugs or classes of drugs were examined in the 1990 NHSDA:

- Marijuana (including hashish),
- Cocaine (including crack),
- Inhalants,
- Hallucinogens (including PCP),
- Heroin,
- Nonmedical use of each of the prescription-type psychotherapeutic drugs (stimulants, sedatives, tranquilizers, and analgesics),
- Alcohol,
- Cigarettes, and
- Smokeless tobacco.

To examine the overall extent of involvement in illicit drugs, two summary measures were constructed: "any illicit drug use" and "nonmedical use of any psychotherapeutic drugs." The summary measure, "any illicit drug use," includes use of illegal drugs such as marijuana, cocaine, inhalants, hallucinogens, and heroin, as well as nonmedical use of prescription-type psychotherapeutic stimulants, sedatives, tranquilizers, and analgesics. Throughout this report, the terms "any illicit drug use" or "illicit drugs" refer to both the use of illegal drugs and nonmedical use of any psychotherapeutic drugs. The summary measure, "nonmedical use of any psychotherapeutic drugs," includes use of prescription-type psychotherapeutic drugs such as stimulants, sedatives, tranquilizers, and analgesics without a doctor's prescription or in amounts or for purposes other than prescribed.

In this report, the prevalence of use of illicit drugs, alcohol, and tobacco is examined for three time periods:

- Use in the lifetime: used one or more times in the individual's lifetime,
- Use in the past year: used one or more times in the year before the survey, and
- Use in the past month: (also referred to as *current use*) used one or more times in the month before the survey.

E. Demographic Correlates of Drug Use

The demographic correlates of drug use considered in this report include age, sex, race/ethnicity, population density, and region. These terms are defined below, and estimates are given of the numbers of individuals with such characteristics in the U.S. household population aged 12 and older:

Age Age of respondents is defined as age at the time of interview. The discussion in much of the report centers on four age groups. Those aged 12 to 17 constitute the age group referred to as "youth." "Young adults" are aged 18 to 25. "Middle adults" include those aged 26 to 34, and "older adults" are those aged 35 or older. The estimated numbers of persons in the household population in these four age groups are 20 million youth, 29 million young adults, 39 million middle adults, and 113 million older adults. In some figures, data for middle and older adults are combined, but estimates for middle and older adults are presented separately in the Appendix tables. Significance tests of differences among age groups are discussed for the four age groups.

Sex Males constitute approximately 96 million of the U.S. population aged 12 and older, and females constitute approximately 105 million.

Race/ Ethnicity Following the current Bureau of the Census classification, persons are grouped into four racial/ethnic groups. Persons referred to as "white" are those who report that they are "white," but "not of Hispanic origin." Approximately 157 million people in the U.S. household population aged 12 and older meet this definition. Persons referred to as "black" are those who report being "black," but "not of Hispanic origin." These include about 23 million people in the U.S. household population aged 12 and older. "Hispanic" includes anyone of Hispanic origin--whether racially black, white, or other. This category comprises approximately 16 million persons. The category "other" includes all other persons not elsewhere classified, of which there are about 5 million in the U.S. household population aged 12 and older. Because relatively few respondents were classified as "other," separate prevalence estimates were not developed for this group, although they were included in the prevalence rates for the U.S. household population.

Population Density — Persons in the U.S. household population are divided into three categories according to Bureau of the Census definitions and the density of the population where they live. Two of the categories are considered urban: large metropolitan and small metropolitan. "Large metropolitan areas" are those Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas (SMSAs) with a 1980 population of 1 million or more. These include large central cities and surrounding areas. Approximately 87 million persons live in large metropolitan areas. "Small metropolitan areas" are those SMSAs with a 1980 population of 50,000 to 999,999. These include smaller cities. Approximately 69 million live in small metropolitan areas. The third category is "nonmetropolitan areas" outside SMSAs. These include small communities, rural nonfarm areas, and rural farm areas. Approximately 45 million persons live in these areas.

Region — The Bureau of the Census categorizes the coterminous United States into four regions. These regions are shown in Exhibit 1, along with the U.S. Postal Service abbreviations for each State. The Northeast comprises approximately 41 million persons in the U.S. household population aged 12 and older. The North Central, the South, and the West include 47 million, 70 million, and 42 million persons, respectively.

Data for the demographic correlates of drug use in the past month are presented in two ways in this report. Bar graphs are used to present the prevalence of use in the past month for the various demographic subgroups (e.g., rates of use for males and females). Pie charts are used to show the demographic composition of current drug users. For example, a whole "pie" is used to represent all persons who have used marijuana in the past month, and the pieces of the pie represent the proportions of users who are male and who are female. In addition, the estimated numbers of users in the U.S. household population in each demographic subgroup are presented.

F. Analytic Approach and Statistical Significance

Analyses of the 1990 NHSDA were designed to provide estimates of the prevalence of use of illicit drugs, alcohol, and tobacco and information about the demographic correlates of use among members of the U.S. household population. Data from 1990 were also compared with data from previous National Household Surveys to examine trends in use of illicit drugs, alcohol, and tobacco since 1972. Rates of use in the U.S. household population in 1988 and 1990 and among the demographic subgroups were compared using z tests. The z test examines the magnitude of the difference between the rates, taking into account the size of the sample and the variation among sample members. A difference in rates of use is defined as "statistically significant" when (taking into account the size of the sample and the variation among sample members) there is a .95 or greater probability that the two populations being compared actually have different prevalence rates. Differences that are statistically significant at the .05 level (.95 probability) are noted in the text as $p<.05$.

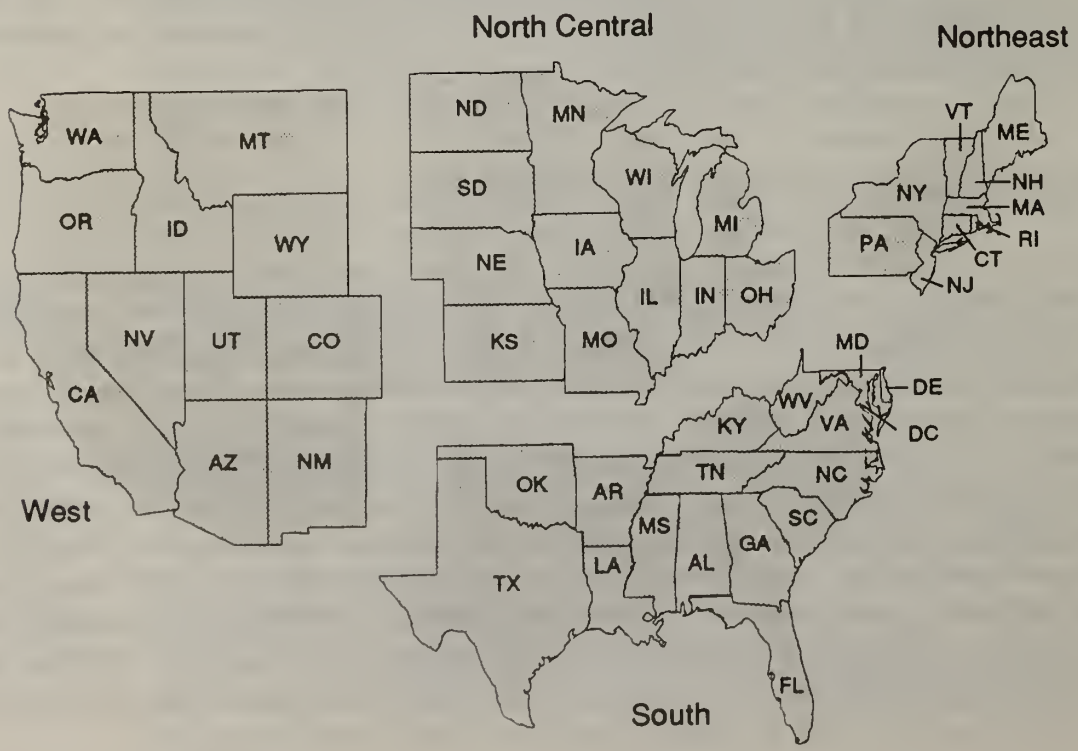
Differences that are statistically significant at the .01 level are noted in the text as p<.01. And differences that are statistically significant at the .001 level are noted in the text as p<.001.

Statistically significant differences may not be found even though the rate for one year or group may be 50% to 100% higher or lower than for the comparison year or group if the rate of use is low. For example, if the rate of use for one group is 1.0% and the rate of use for the comparison group is 1.5%, it is unlikely the difference between these two groups will be statistically significant. The magnitude of the difference between these two groups is so small (.5%) that it is difficult to detect whether the two groups truly differ in their rate of use or if the difference is due to sampling error.

Estimates of proportions that were considered to be unreliable were omitted from all tables and figures and are noted by asterisks (*). For the purposes of this report, an estimate of a proportion was considered to be unreliable if the standard error was equal to or greater than 50% of the estimated proportion.

Estimates are not available for some survey years because of differences in the survey instrument. These data points are footnoted in the figures and marked with a double hyphen (--) in corresponding Appendix tables.

Exhibit 1. Census Regions of the Coterminous United States



II. PREVALENCE OF USE OF ILLICIT DRUGS, ALCOHOL, AND TOBACCO

This chapter provides an overview of the prevalence of use in 1990 of any illicit drug and specific illicit drugs, alcohol, and tobacco in the lifetime, past year, and past month among members of the U.S. household population aged 12 and older. It also provides estimates of the number of users of each drug in 1990. The demographic correlates of any illicit drug use are examined.

A. Prevalence of Use (Table 1, Figure 1)

- In 1990, some 37% of the household population reported they had used one or more illicit drugs in their lifetimes, 13% had used illicit drugs in the past year, and 6% had used them in the month before the survey.

- Approximately 83% of the household population had ever used alcohol, 66% used it in the past year, and 51% used it in the past month.

- Approximately 73% of the household population had ever smoked cigarettes, 32% had smoked in the past year, and 27% had smoked in the past month.

These rates of use mean that of the 201 million persons in the household population aged 12 and older in 1990, about 74 million had ever used illicit drugs, 167 million had used alcohol, and 147 million had smoked cigarettes. Almost 13 million had used illicit drugs in the past month, while about 103 million had used alcohol and 54 million had smoked cigarettes. Other rates of use are summarized as follows:

- Marijuana was the most commonly used illicit drug in 1990. Of the total household population aged 12 and older, 33% had ever used marijuana and 5% were current users.

- The next most commonly used illicit drugs in 1990 were any prescription-type psychotherapeutic drugs and cocaine. Approximately 12% of the household population reported they had ever used one or more prescription-type psychotherapeutic drugs for nonmedical purposes, and 11% had ever used cocaine. Approximately 1% had used either type of drug in the past month.

- Other illicit drugs were used by fewer than 8% of the household population in the lifetime and fewer than 1% in the past month.

- Roughly 1% of the household population reported having used heroin or crack in the lifetime.

TABLE 1. Numbers of Users (In Millions) of Illicit Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco In the Lifetime, Past Year, and Past Month In U.S. Household Population Aged 12 and Older: 1990

Drug	Numbers of Users (In Millions)		
	Lifetime	Past Year	Past Month
Any Illicit Drug Use	74.4	26.8	12.9
Marijuana/Hashish	66.5	20.4	10.2
Cocaine	22.7	6.2	1.6
Crack	2.8	1.0	0.5
Inhalants	10.3	2.4	1.2
Hallucinogens	15.3	2.3	0.6
Heroin	1.6	0.5	*
Nonmedical Use of Any Psychotherapeutics	24.0	8.6	2.9
Alcohol	167.4	132.9	102.9
Cigarettes	147.2	64.5	53.6
Smokeless Tobacco	28.4	9.8	7.1

*Low precision; no estimate reported.

Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1990.

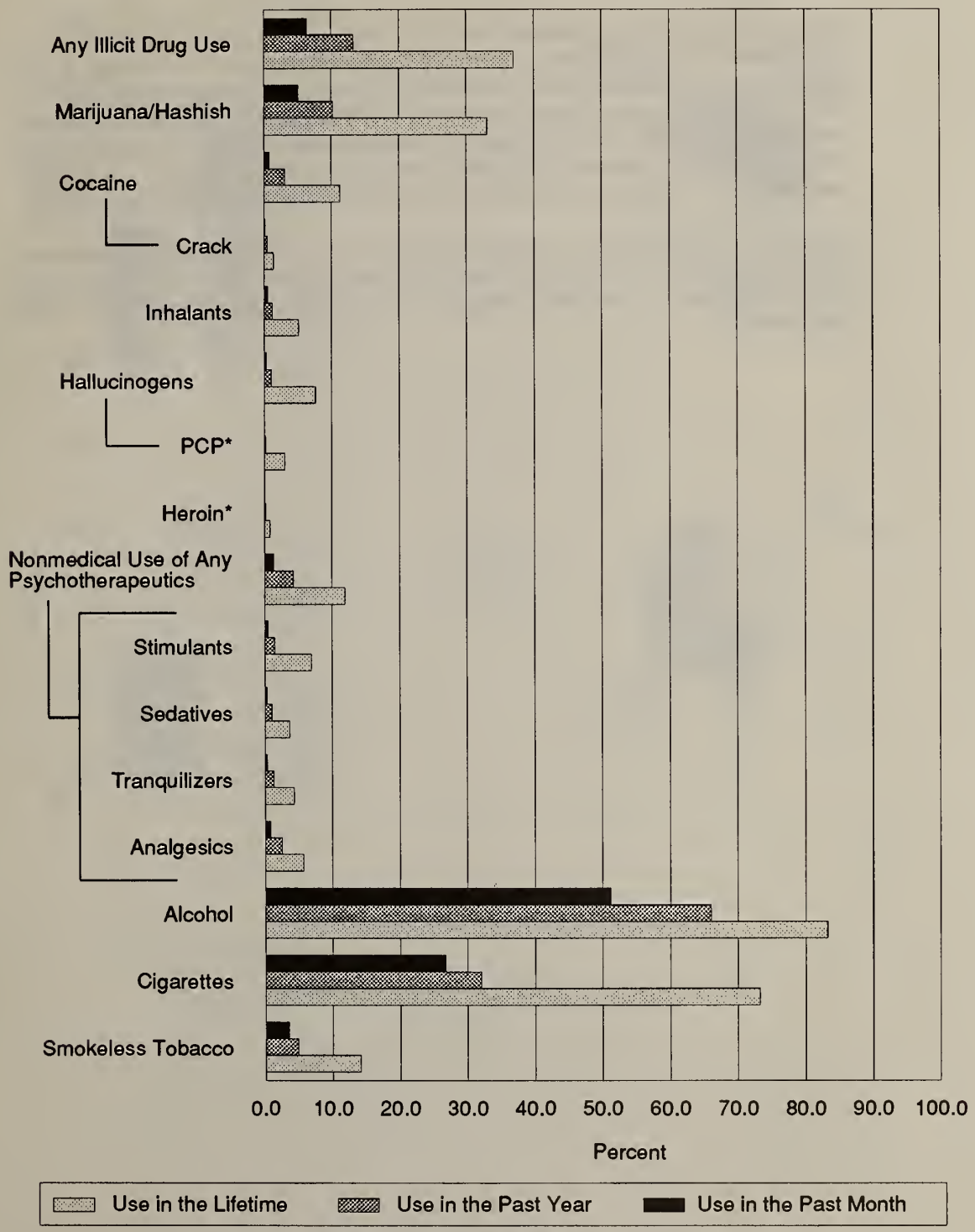
B. Demographic Correlates of Any Illicit Drug Use in the Past Month (Figure 2)

- Overall, the use of any illicit drug in the past month was more common among young adults (those aged 18 to 25), males, blacks, residents of large metropolitan areas, and residents of the West, although not all the differences between demographic groups were statistically significant.

- Age Group: The prevalence of use of illicit drugs in the past month was highest among those aged 18 to 25, significantly higher than among those aged 12 to 17 and the two older age groups ($p < .001$). Some 1.6 million youth aged 12 to 17, 4.3 million young adults aged 18 to 25, and 7.0 million middle and older adults had used one or more illicit drugs in the past month.

- Sex: Males were significantly more likely than females to have used illicit drugs in the past month ($p < .001$). Almost 8 million males were current users compared with more than 5 million females.

Figure 1. Percentage of the U.S. Household Population Aged 12 and Older Reporting Use of Illicit Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco in the Lifetime, Past Year, and Past Month: 1990



*Note: Low precision; no estimate reported for past month.

Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1990.

- Race/Ethnicity: Blacks were significantly more likely than whites to have used illicit drugs in the past month ($p < .05$), but Hispanics did not differ significantly from whites or blacks. Three-fourths of illicit drug users were white. Almost 10 million whites used illicit drugs in the past month, compared with 2 million blacks and 1 million Hispanics.

- Population Density: Residents of large metropolitan areas were slightly more likely than residents of other areas to have used illicit drugs in the past month, but the differences were not statistically significant. Almost half of those who had used illicit drugs in the past month lived in large metropolitan areas. Approximately 6 million residents of large metropolitan areas, 4 million residents of small metropolitan areas, and 2 million residents of nonmetropolitan areas had used illicit drugs in the past month.

- Region: The prevalence of illicit drug use was similar in all four regions. Approximately 3 million residents in the North Central, West, and Northeast regions used illicit drugs, and roughly 4 million residents of the South did so.

Figure 2. Prevalence and Relative Proportion of Any Illicit Drug Use in the Past Month, by Demographic Characteristics: 1990

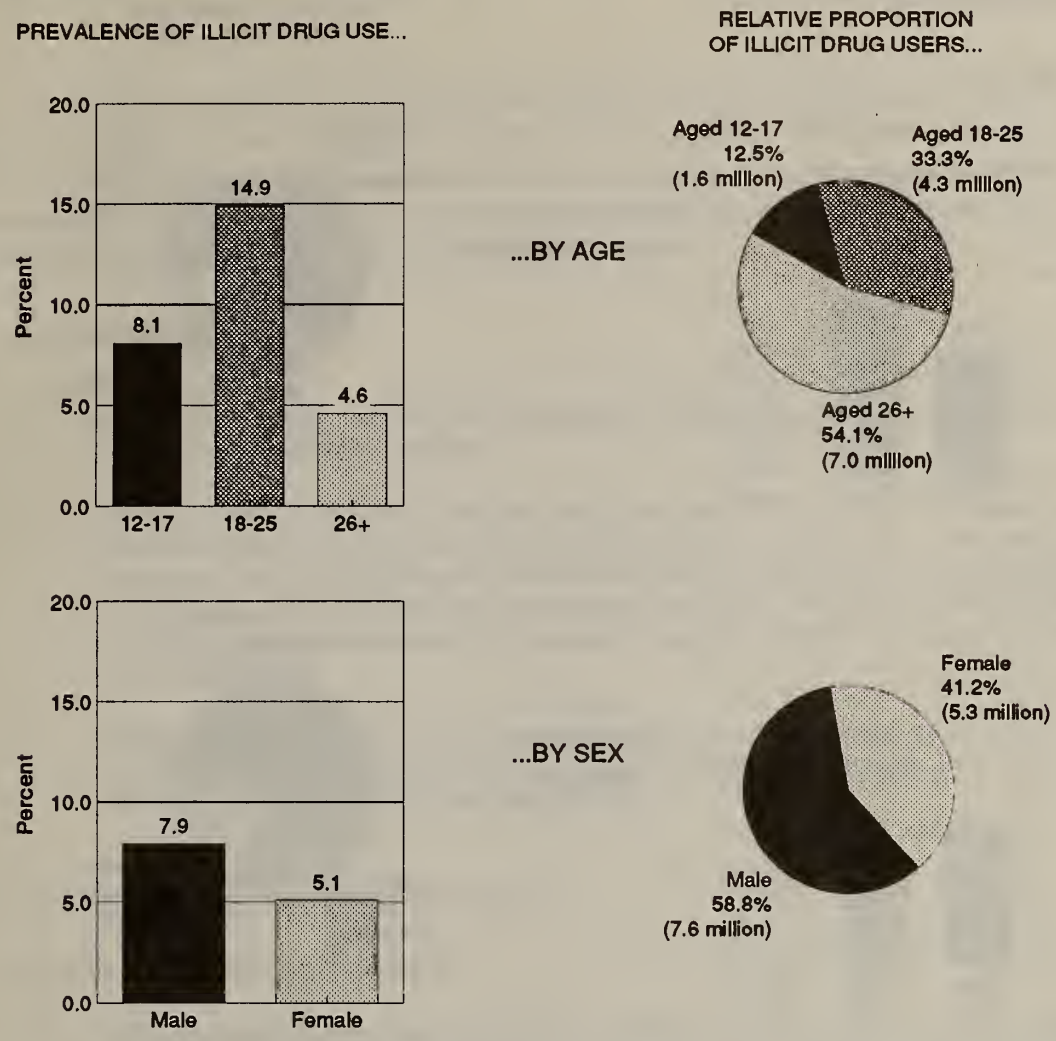
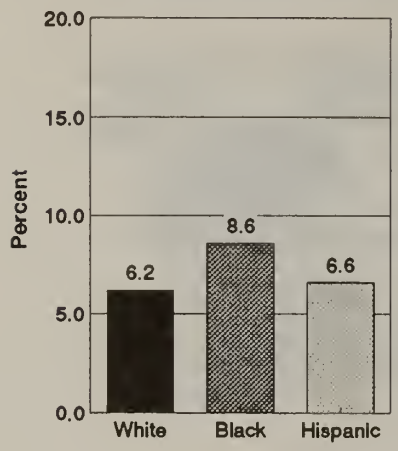


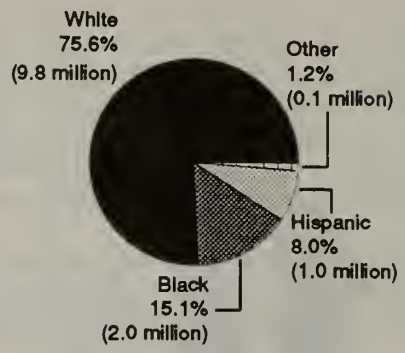
Figure 2 (continued)

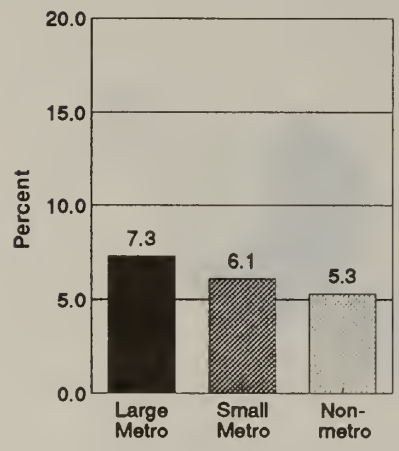
PREVALENCE OF ILLICIT DRUG USE...

RELATIVE PROPORTION OF ILLICIT DRUG USERS...

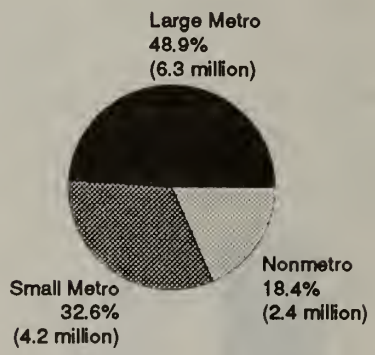


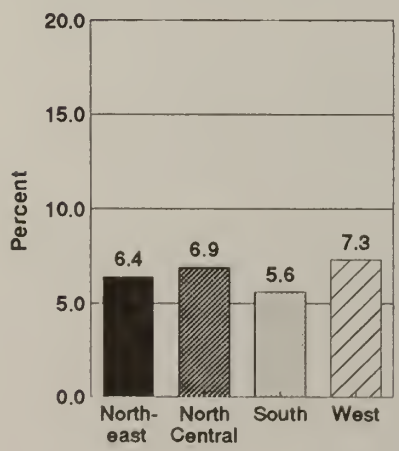
...BY RACE / ETHNICITY



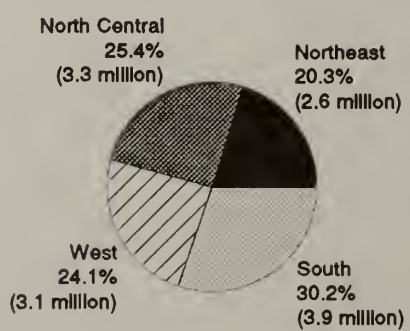


...BY POPULATION DENSITY





...BY REGION



Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1990.

III. TRENDS IN THE USE OF ANY ILLICIT DRUGS, ALCOHOL, AND CIGARETTES

This chapter provides information about trends in lifetime and past month use of any illicit drugs, alcohol, and cigarettes from the 1970s to 1990. Differences in use between 1988 and 1990 are also discussed. Data are presented for youth aged 12 to 17, young adults aged 18 to 25, and middle and older adults aged 26 and older. Trends in the use of specific illicit drugs are presented in later chapters.

A. General Trends

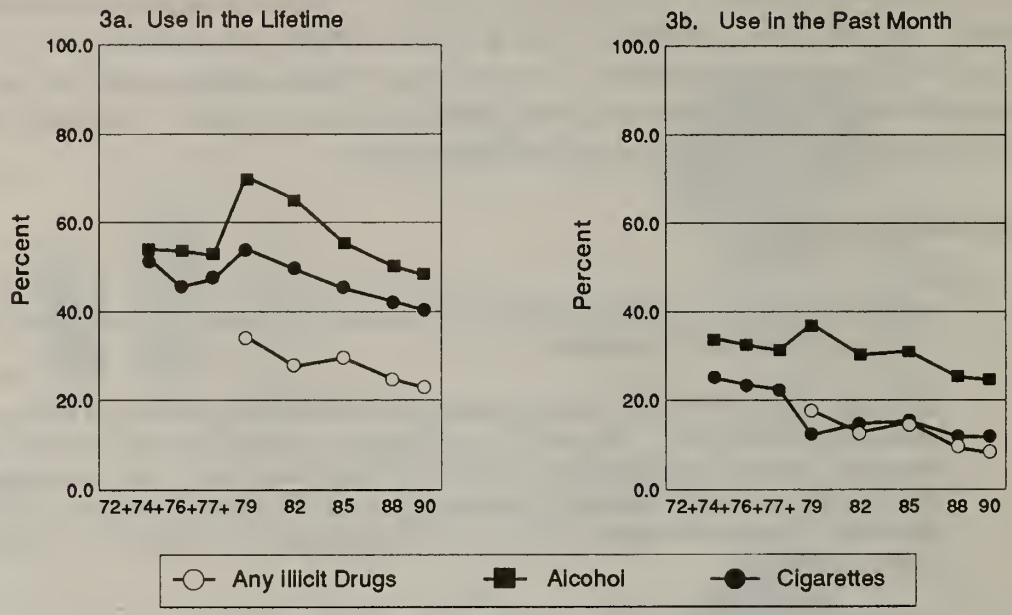
- Use of illicit drugs, alcohol, and cigarettes generally peaked during the late 1970s and declined thereafter.
- Between 1988 and 1990, the percentage of each age group that had ever used any illicit drug, alcohol, or cigarettes continued to decrease. However, the only statistically significant decrease was in the percentage of cigarette smokers among those aged 18 to 25. As discussed in later chapters, some decreases in the use of specific illicit drugs were statistically significant.
- Between 1988 and 1990, current use of any illicit drugs, alcohol, and cigarettes continued to decrease among all three age groups, but none of the decreases was statistically significant.

B. Trends Among Youth Aged 12 to 17

Use in the Lifetime (Figure 3a)

- The percentage of youth aged 12 to 17 who had ever used any illicit drugs, alcohol, or cigarettes was highest in the late 1970s. Rates decreased during the 1980s to match or reach the lowest levels recorded since the study began.
- Between 1988 and 1990, the lifetime use of any illicit drugs, alcohol, and cigarettes among youth decreased slightly, but the decreases were not statistically significant.
- In 1990, approximately 23% of youth reported they had used one or more illicit drugs in the lifetime, 48% had used alcohol, and 40% had smoked cigarettes.

Figure 3. Trends in the Percentage of Youth Aged 12 to 17 Reporting Use of Any Illicit Drugs, Alcohol, and Cigarettes in the Lifetime and Past Month: 1974-1990



+Note: Data not available for some years.

Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1974-1990.

Use in the Past Month (Figure 3b)

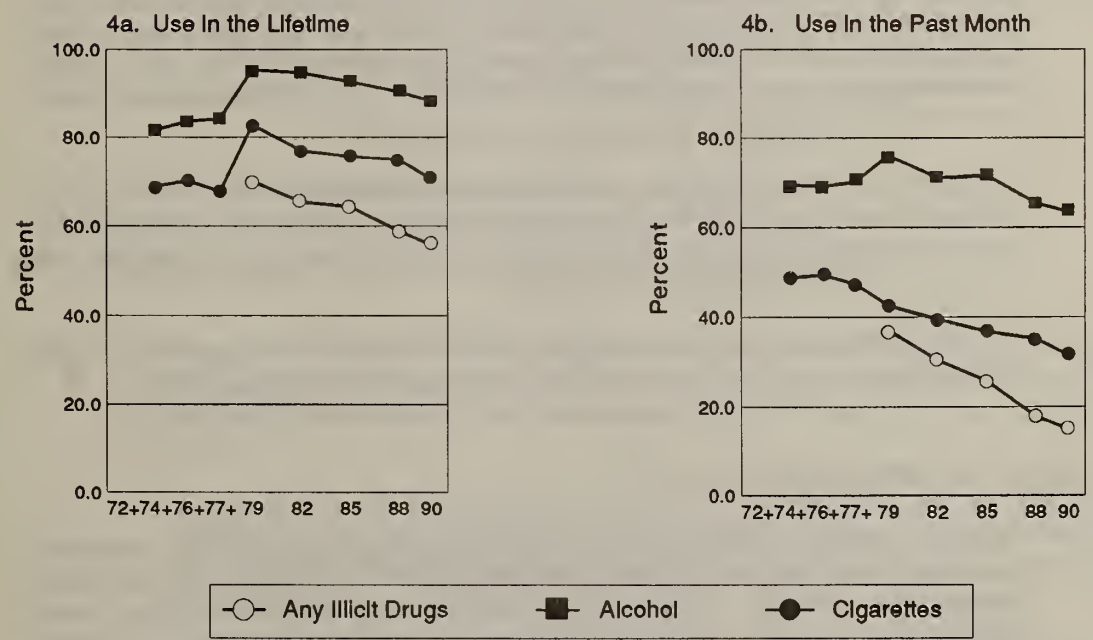
- The percentage of youth aged 12 to 17 who had used any illicit drugs or alcohol in the past month decreased during the 1980s from a peak during the late 1970s. Cigarette use was highest in the period from 1974 to 1977 and lowest in 1988 and 1990.
- Between 1988 and 1990, the use of any illicit drugs, alcohol, and cigarettes by youth in the past month was relatively stable. None of the slight decreases was statistically significant.
- In 1990, about 8% of youth aged 12 to 17 reported they had used illicit drugs in the past month, about 24% had used alcohol, and 12% had smoked cigarettes.

C. Trends Among Young Adults Aged 18 to 25

Use in the Lifetime (Figure 4a)

- The percentage of young adults aged 18 to 25 who had ever used any illicit drugs, alcohol, or cigarettes was highest during the late 1970s and has since gradually, but steadily decreased.
- Between 1988 and 1990, the percentage of young adults who had ever used any illicit drugs or alcohol decreased slightly, but the decreases were not statistically significant. The decrease in the percentage who had ever smoked cigarettes was statistically significant.
- In 1990, approximately 56% of young adults had ever used illicit drugs, 88% had used alcohol, and 70% had smoked cigarettes.

Figure 4. Trends in the Percentage of Young Adults Aged 18 to 25 Reporting Use of Any Illicit Drugs, Alcohol, and Cigarettes in the Lifetime and Past Month: 1974-1990



+Note: Data not available for some years.

Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1974-1990.

Use in the Past Month (Figure 4b)

- The percentage of young adults who were current users of any illicit drugs or alcohol was highest in the late 1970s and decreased throughout the 1980s to 1990, while the percentage of current cigarette smokers was highest in the early 1970s.

- Between 1988 and 1990, the percentage of young adults who were current users of any illicit drugs, alcohol, or cigarettes decreased slightly, but none of the decreases was statistically significant.

- In 1990, current use of any illicit drug (15%), alcohol (63%), and cigarettes (32%) among young adults was lowest since the National Household Survey series began.

D. Trends Among Persons Aged 26 and Older

Use in the Lifetime (Figure 5a)

- The percentage of adults aged 26 and older who had ever used alcohol or cigarettes peaked in the late 1970s and has since been relatively stable to decreasing. In comparison, the percentage who had ever used illicit drugs has continued to increase. However, this increase is a reflection of the aging of cohorts with a high rate of past drug use experience, rather than an increase in use among middle to older adults. Few individuals initiate drug use after their mid-20s.

- Between 1988 and 1990, the percentage of those aged 26 and older who had ever used any illicit drugs increased slightly, and the percentage who had ever used alcohol or cigarettes decreased slightly. However, the changes were not statistically significant.

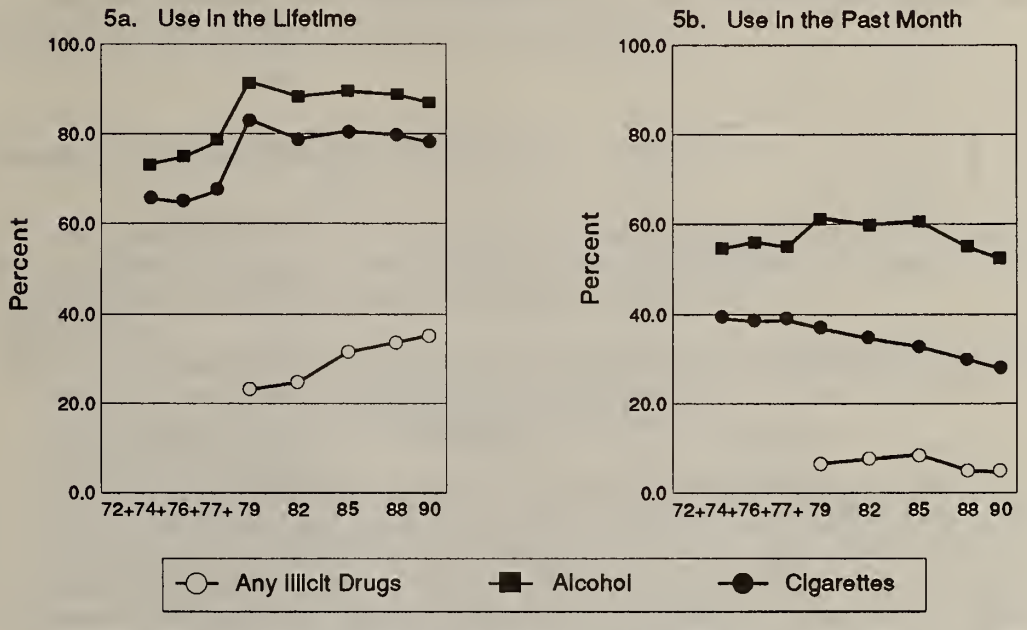
- In 1990, 35% of those aged 26 and older had ever used any illicit drugs, 87% had ever used alcohol, and 78% had ever smoked cigarettes.

Use in the Past Month (Figure 5b)

- The percentage of adults aged 26 and older who had used illicit drugs in the past month was relatively stable between 1979 and 1990, varying between 5% and 8%. Current use of alcohol was somewhat higher from 1979 to 1985 than in earlier or later years, while the percentage of current cigarette smokers was stable between 1974 and 1977 and decreased thereafter.

- In 1990, approximately 5% of adults aged 26 and older were current users of illicit drugs, 52% were current alcohol users, and 28% were current cigarette smokers.

Figure 5. Trends in the Percentage of Persons Aged 26 and Older Reporting Use of Any Illicit Drugs, Alcohol, and Cigarettes in the Lifetime and Past Month: 1974-1990



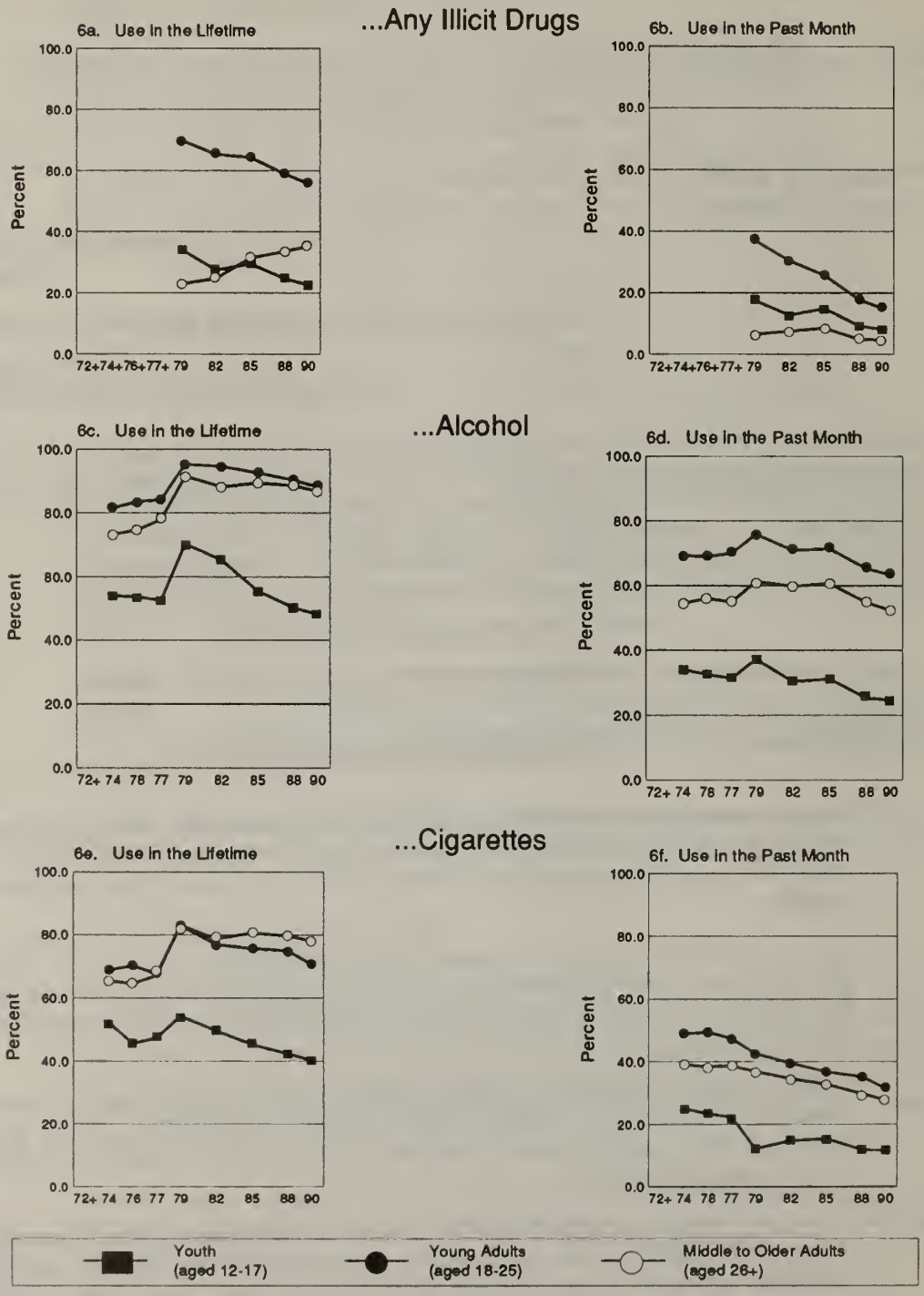
+Note: Data not available for some years.

Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1974-1990.

E. Comparisons of Trends Among Age Groups (Figure 6)

- Young adults aged 18 to 25 were consistently more likely than youth aged 12 to 17 or older adults aged 26 and older across the survey series to have ever used illicit drugs and alcohol and to have used them in the past month.
- Young adults and older adults were about equally likely across the survey series to have used cigarettes in the lifetime or in the past month and were much more likely than youth to have ever smoked or to have smoked in the past month.
- Youth were the least likely of all the age groups to have used alcohol or cigarettes in the past month across the survey series. They were intermediate to young adults and older adults, however, in their use of illicit drugs in the past month.
- Trends in lifetime and past month use of illicit drugs, alcohol, and cigarettes were similar across age groups. The exception is lifetime use of illicit drugs. Lifetime rates decreased for youth aged 12 to 17 and young adults aged 18 to 25, but they increased for adults aged 26 and older. This difference in pattern reflects a decreasing likelihood of youth and young adults to use illicit drugs. For adults aged 26 and older, the increases are reflective of the aging of cohorts with high rates of drug use in earlier years.

Figure 6. Trends in the Percentage Reporting Use of Any Illicit Drugs, Alcohol, and Cigarettes in the Lifetime and Past Month, by Age Group: 1974-1990



+Note: Data not available for some years.

Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1974-1990.

IV. MARIJUANA

Marijuana (including hashish) has been the illicit drug most widely used by members of the household population since the National Household Survey series began in 1971. This chapter presents information on the prevalence of marijuana use by age group, trends in marijuana use, and demographic correlates of marijuana use.

A. Prevalence of Marijuana Use (Figure 7a)

- About one-third of the U.S. household population reported that they had used marijuana one or more times in the lifetime, 10% had used in the past year, and 5% had used in the past month (Figure 1).

- These percentages translate to more than 66 million members of the U.S. household population who had used marijuana in the lifetime, 20 million in the past year, and 10 million in the past month (Table 1).

- Middle adults aged 26 to 34 were the most likely of the four age groups to have ever used marijuana ($p < .001$ for comparisons with other age groups), but those aged 18 to 25 were most likely to have used marijuana in the past year or past month ($p < .001$). Approximately 61% of middle adults had ever used marijuana, compared with 52% of young adults, 22% of older adults, and 15% of youth. Approximately 13% of young adults used marijuana in the past month, which compares with about 9% for those aged 26 to 34 and smaller percentages for other age groups.

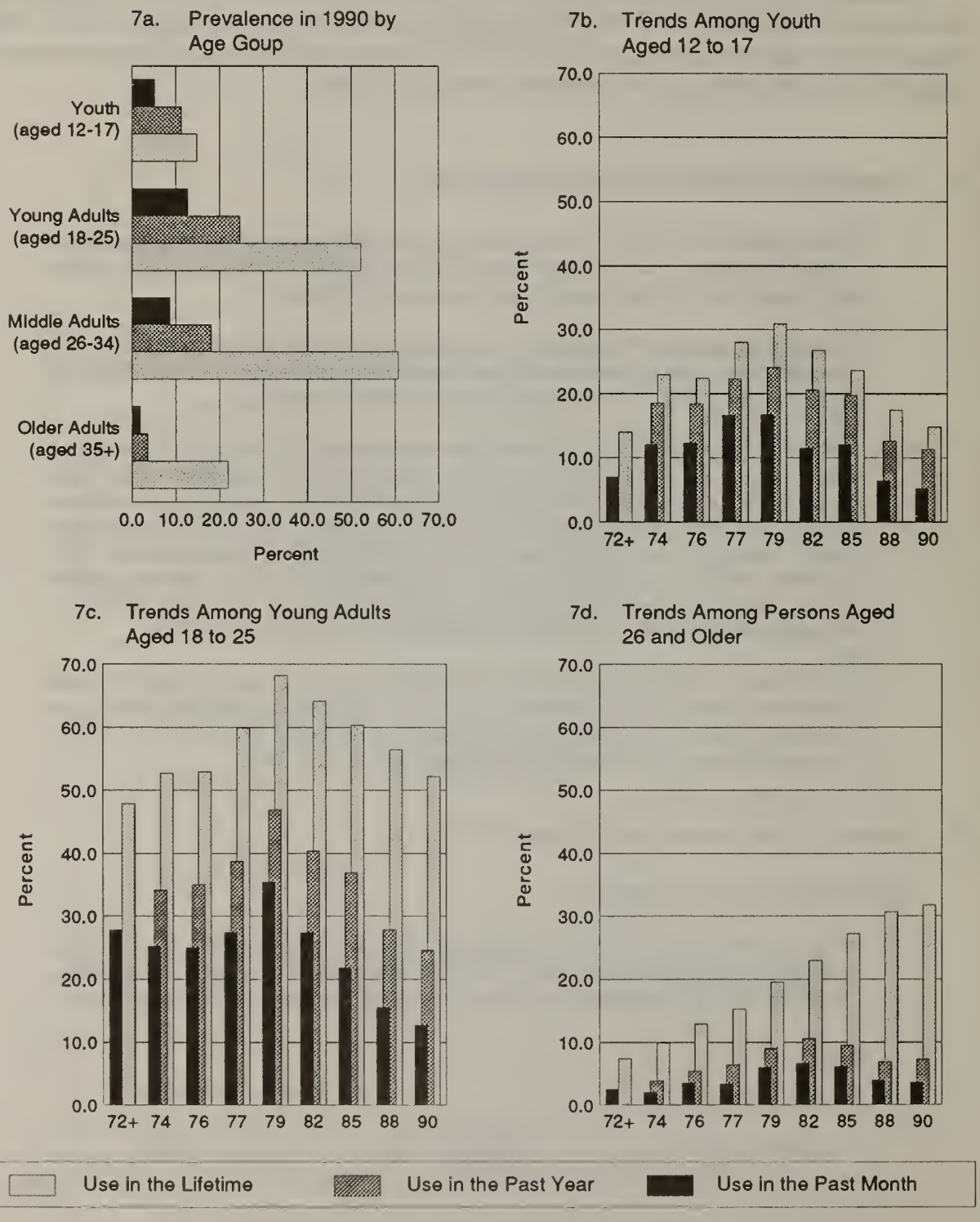
- Youth aged 12 to 17 were the least likely of the four age groups to have used marijuana in the lifetime ($p < .001$ for comparisons with other age groups), while older adults aged 35 and older were least likely to have used marijuana in the past year and past month ($p < .001$).

B. Trends in Marijuana Use (Figures 7b, 7c, 7d)

Youth Aged 12 to 17 (Figure 7b)

- The percentage of youth using marijuana in the lifetime, past year, or past month was highest in the late 1970s and decreased throughout the 1980s to levels in 1990 that were similar to or lower than those in the early 1970s.

Figure 7. Trends in the Percentage Reporting Marijuana Use, by Age Group: 1972-1990



+Note: Data not available for past year use estimates for 1972.

Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1972-1990.

- Between 1988 and 1990, the percentage of youth using marijuana in the lifetime, past year, or past month decreased slightly, but the decreases were not statistically significant.

- In 1990, approximately 15% of youth reported they had ever used marijuana, 11% had used in the past year, and 5% had used in the past month.

Young Adults Aged 18 to 25 (Figure 7c)

- Since 1972, almost one-half to two-thirds of young adults have reported that they had ever used marijuana. The percentage reporting use in the lifetime, past year, or past month was highest in 1979 (68%, 47%, and 35%, respectively). Rates of use have decreased substantially since this peak.

- Between 1988 and 1990, the percentage of young adults using marijuana in the lifetime decreased significantly ($p < .05$). Although the percentages reporting use in the past year or past month also decreased, the decreases were not statistically significant.

- In 1990, some 52% of young adults reported having ever used marijuana, 25% used it in the past year, and 13% used it in the past month.

Middle to Older Adults Aged 26 and Older (Figure 7d)

- In contrast to other age groups, the percentage of adults aged 26 and older who had ever used marijuana was highest in 1990 (32%) rather than in the late 1970s. This upward trend is primarily due to the aging of cohorts who first used marijuana during the peak period of use in the 1970s. The percentage who had used marijuana in the past year was highest in 1982 (11%), while the percentage who used in the past month was higher during the period from 1979 to 1985 (6% to 7%) than in earlier or later periods.

- Between 1988 and 1990, the percentage of adults aged 26 and older using marijuana in the lifetime, past year, or past month was relatively stable.

- In 1990, approximately 32% of adults aged 26 and older reported they had ever used marijuana, 7% in the past year, and 4% in the past month.

C. Demographic Correlates of Marijuana Use in the Past Month (Figure 8)

- Sex: Males were significantly more likely than females to have used marijuana in the past month ($p < .001$). A total of 6.1 million males and 4.1 million females in the household population used marijuana in the past month.

Figure 8. Prevalence and Relative Proportion of Marijuana Use in the Past Month, by Demographic Characteristics: 1990

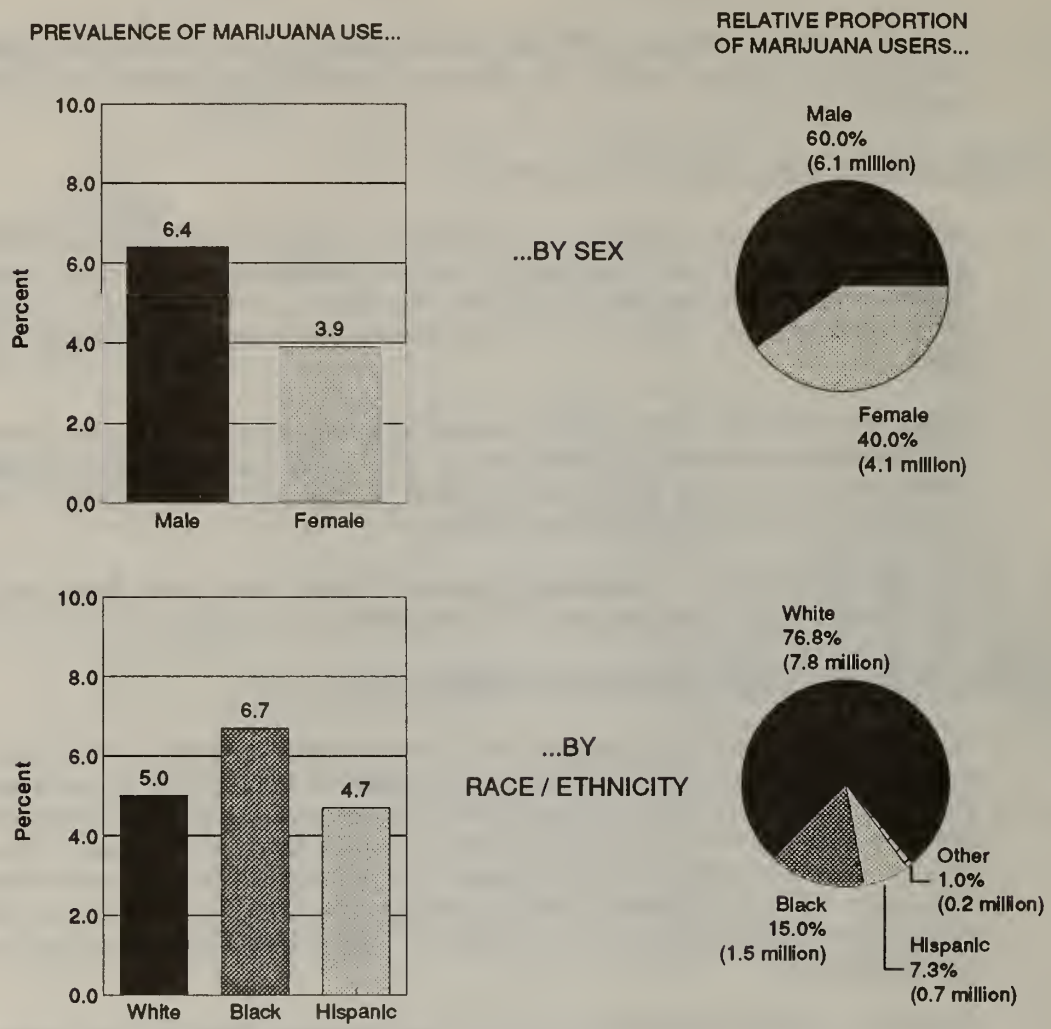
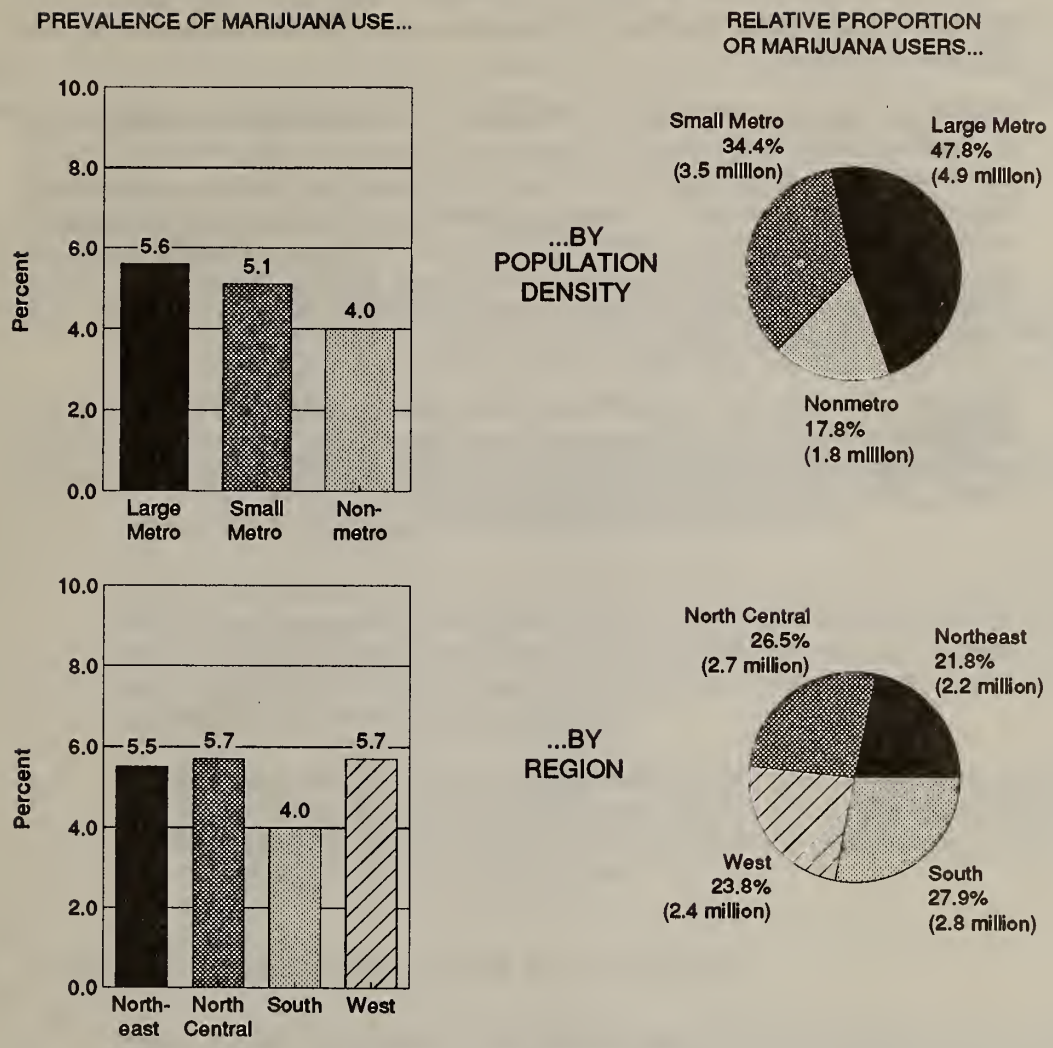


Figure 8 (continued)



Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1990.

- Race/Ethnicity: Blacks were more likely than whites or Hispanics to have used marijuana in the past month, but the differences were not statistically significant. Over three-fourths of those who had used marijuana in the past month were white. A total of 7.8 million whites used marijuana in the past month compared with 1.5 million blacks, 0.7 million Hispanics, and 0.2 million others.

- Population Density: Residents of large and small metropolitan areas were somewhat more likely than residents of nonmetropolitan areas to have used marijuana in the past month, but the differences were not statistically significant. Almost half of those who had used marijuana in the past month were from large metropolitan areas. Approximately 5 million residents of large metropolitan areas, more than 3 million from small metropolitan areas, and 2 million from nonmetropolitan areas had used marijuana in the past month.

- Region: Residents of the West were significantly more likely than residents of the South to have used marijuana in the past month, but the other regions did not differ significantly. More than 2 million residents of each region used marijuana in the past month.

V. COCAINE AND CRACK

Cocaine, along with its derivative crack, has been of increasing concern in recent years. This chapter examines the prevalence of use of cocaine and crack by age group, trends in cocaine use, demographic correlates of cocaine use, and prevalence of crack use.

A. Prevalence of Cocaine Use (Figure 9a)

- Approximately 11% of the U.S. household population in 1990 reported they had used cocaine (including crack) one or more times in the lifetime, 3% had used it in the past year, and fewer than 1% had used it in the past month (Figure 1).

- These percentages mean that, of the total household population, almost 23 million persons had ever used cocaine, 6 million used it in the past year, and 1.6 million used it in the past month (Table 1).

- Middle adults aged 26 to 34 were most likely to have ever used cocaine (26%), but young adults aged 18 to 25 and middle adults were about equally likely to have used cocaine in the past year or past month. Most comparisons among age groups as to lifetime, past year, and past month cocaine use were statistically significant.

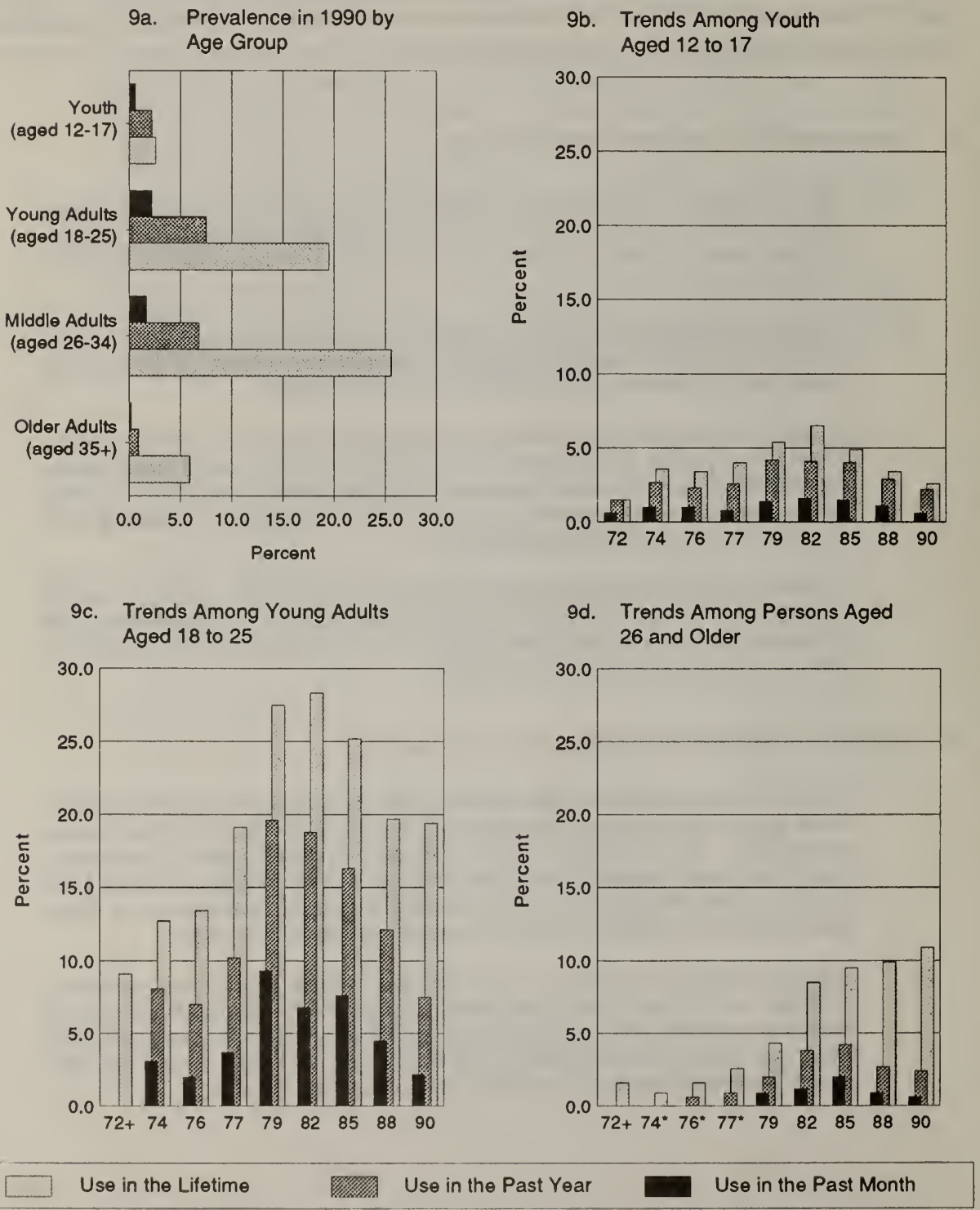
- In 1990, about one-fourth of middle adults and one-fifth of young adults reported they had ever used cocaine. Some 2% of young adults and middle adults reported they had used cocaine in the past month, and fewer than 1% of youth or older adults did so.

B. Trends in Cocaine Use (Figures 9b, 9c, and 9d)

- Rates of use of cocaine in the lifetime, past year, and past month were for most age groups highest in the period from 1979 to 1985, but have since decreased. The exception is lifetime use among adults aged 26 and older, which increased steadily during the 1980s to a peak of approximately 11% in 1990. This increase primarily reflects the drug use experience of older adults during the 1970s as well as a small number of new users.

- Between 1988 and 1990, the percentage of each age group reporting cocaine use in the lifetime, past year, or past month was relatively stable, with the exception of statistically significant decreases in use during the past year among young adults aged 18 to 25 ($p < .01$) and during the past month among those aged 18 to 25 and 26 and older ($p < .05$).

Figure 9. Trends in the Percentage Reporting Cocaine Use, by Age Group: 1972-1990


9a. Prevalence in 1990 by Age Group
Youth (aged 12-17)
Young Adults (aged 18-25)
Middle Adults (aged 26-34)
Older Adults (aged 35+)
0.0 5.0 10.0 15.0 20.0 25.0 30.0
Percent
9b. Trends Among Youth Aged 12 to 17
Percent
30.0 25.0 20.0 15.0 10.0 5.0 0.0
72 74 76 77 79 82 85 88 90
9c. Trends Among Young Adults Aged 18 to 25
Percent
30.0 25.0 20.0 15.0 10.0 5.0 0.0
72+ 74 76 77 79 82 85 88 90
9d. Trends Among Persons Aged 26 and Older
Percent
30.0 25.0 20.0 15.0 10.0 5.0 0.0
72+ 74* 76* 77* 79 82 85 88 90
Use in the Lifetime
Use in the Past Year
Use in the Past Month

+Note: Data not available for past year and past month estimates.

*Note: Low precision; no estimate reported for older adults in the past year and/or the past month.

Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1972-1990.

- In 1990, rates of cocaine use in the lifetime, past year, and past month were for most age groups similar to those of the early 1970s, although lifetime use among adults aged 26 and older was highest.

C. Demographic Correlates of Cocaine Use in the Past Month (Figure 10)

- Sex: Males were about twice as likely as females to have used cocaine in the past month, 1.1% compared to 0.5%, and the difference was statistically significant ($p < .01$). Approximately 1 million males in the household population had used cocaine in the past month compared with 0.6 million females.
- Race/Ethnicity: Rates of cocaine use in the past month among blacks and Hispanics were significantly higher than among whites ($p < .01$), but the rates of cocaine use of blacks and Hispanics were similar. More than half of all cocaine users were white. Almost 1 million whites and fewer than one-half million blacks and Hispanics reported they had used cocaine in the past month.
- Population Density: The rates of cocaine use in the past month did not differ significantly among large metropolitan, small metropolitan, and nonmetropolitan areas. More than half of all cocaine users lived in large metropolitan areas. Almost 1 million users lived in large metropolitan areas, and fewer than 1 million users living in both small and non-metropolitan areas reported they had used cocaine in the past month.
- Region: The rates of cocaine use in the past month were similar. Fewer than one-fourth of cocaine users were from the North Central, Northeast, and West regions, while almost one-third were from the South. Each region contributed approximately one-half million users to the total.

Figure 10. Prevalence and Relative Proportion of Cocaine Use in the Past Month, by Demographic Characteristics: 1990

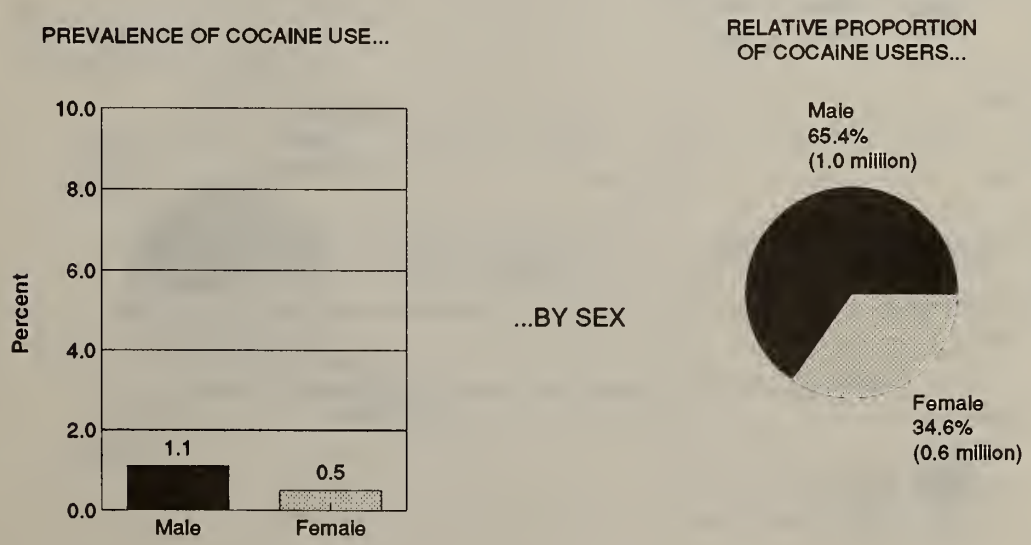
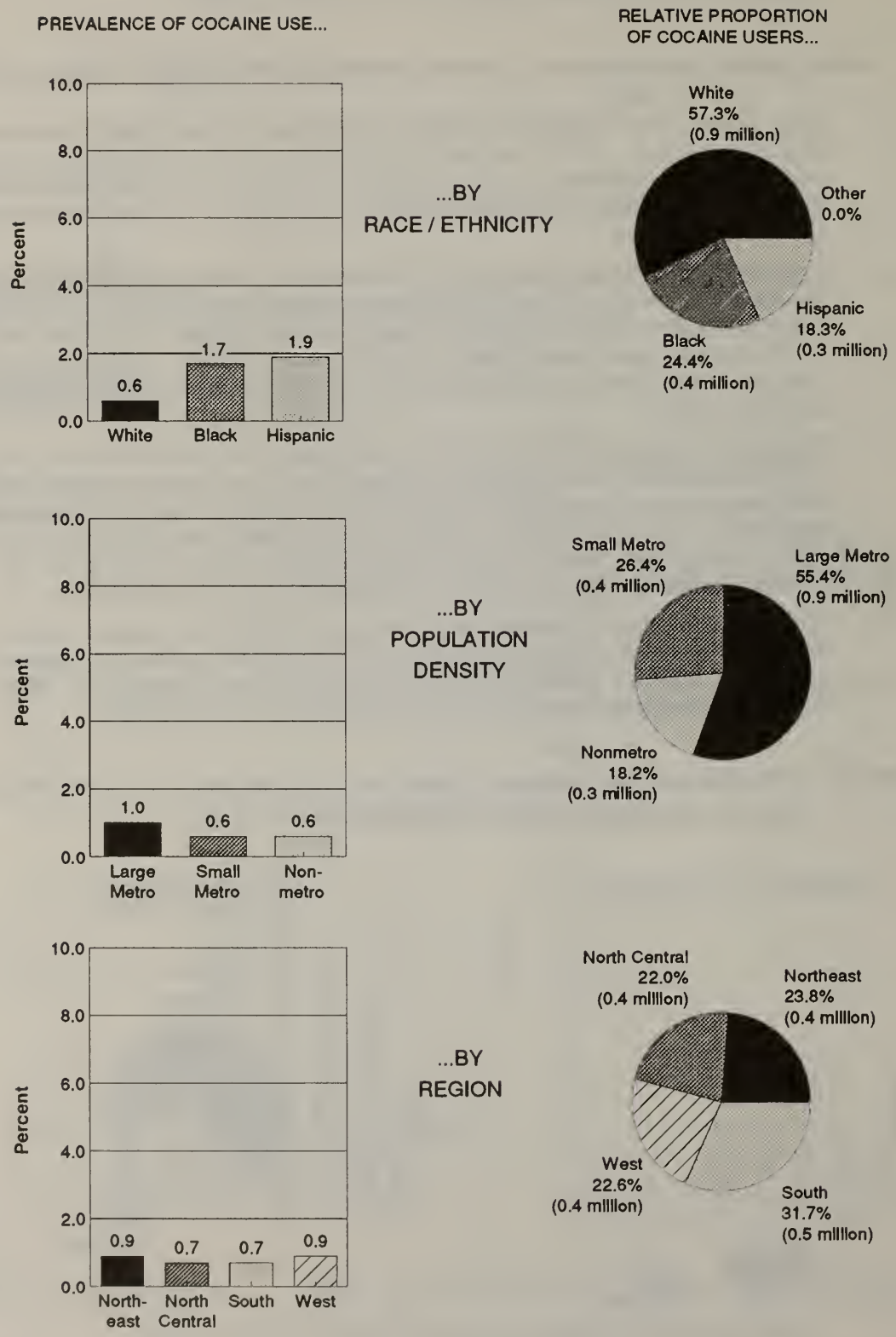


Figure 10 (continued)

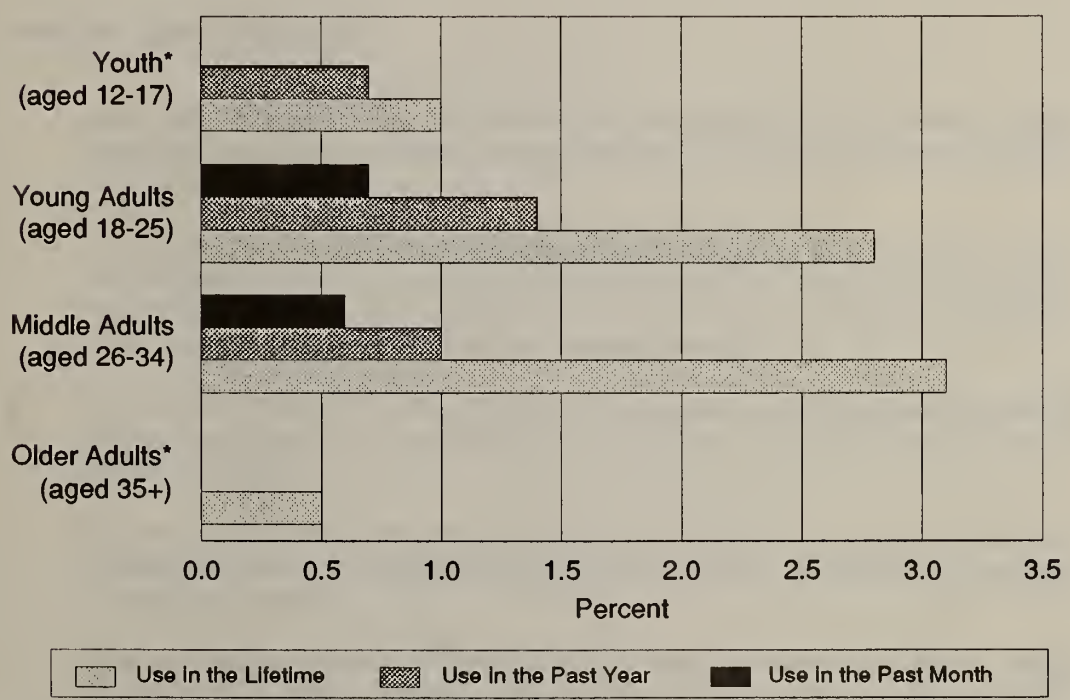


Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1990.

D. Prevalence of Crack Use (Figure 11)

- Of the U.S. household population, 1.4% reported they had ever used crack cocaine, 0.5% in the past year, and 0.2% in the past month (Figure 1).
- Some 2.8 million members of the U.S. household population in 1990 reported they had used crack cocaine in the lifetime, about 1 million in the past year, and roughly one-half million in the past month (Table 1).
- Middle adults aged 26 to 34 were most likely to have ever used crack cocaine (3.1%), while young adults aged 18 to 25 were most likely to have used crack cocaine in the past month (0.7%). The rates of use among young adults and middle adults were significantly greater than among youth aged 12 to 17 and older adults aged 35 and older for most comparisons of lifetime, past year, and past month use.

Figure 11. Prevalence of Crack Use, by Age Group: 1990



*Note: Low precision; no estimate reported for youth in the past month or older adults in the past year or the past month.

Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1990.

VI. INHALANTS, HALLUCINOGENS, AND HEROIN

Inhalants are substances that are exclusively sniffed or inhaled to achieve a "high." The most commonly used ones are amyl nitrites, nitrous oxide, gasoline, and glue. Hallucinogens include lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD), peyote, mescaline, psilocybin, and phencyclidine (PCP). Inhalants and hallucinogens received less attention recently than drugs such as marijuana and cocaine because of their low rates of use and because they are not considered to be addictive. Heroin is of great concern, despite its low prevalence in the household population, because it is addictive and it is usually taken intravenously. The sharing of injection equipment is one of the major means of transmission of the virus that causes the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

This chapter presents basic information about the prevalence of use of inhalants, hallucinogens, and heroin among members of the U.S. household population in 1990 and trends in use of inhalants and hallucinogens since 1972.

A. Inhalant Use (Figure 12)

- Approximately 5% of the household population aged 12 and older reported they had ever used inhalants, and fewer than 1% had used inhalants in the past month (Figure 1).

- In 1990, young adults were significantly more likely than youth ($p < .05$), middle adults ($p < .01$), and older adults ($p < .001$) to have used inhalants in the lifetime. Youth were significantly more likely than adults aged 35 and older to have used inhalants in the lifetime ($p < .001$).

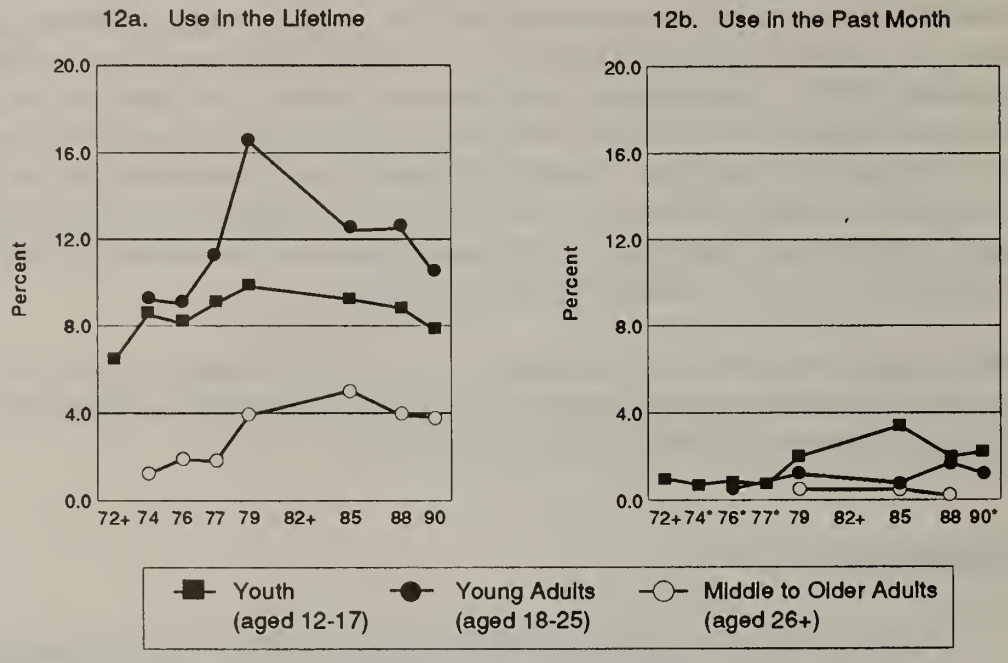
- Young adults were the most likely to have ever used inhalants in each of the survey years, but youth were the most likely to have used inhalants in the past month.

- Between 1988 and 1990, the prevalence of inhalant use in the lifetime and in the past month was relatively stable. There were no significant changes for any age group.

- The highest prevalence of inhalant use in the past month was 3% for youth in 1985. This rate decreased thereafter and has been lower for other age groups.

- In 1990, approximately 10% of young adults, 8% of youth, and 4% of middle to older adults reported they had ever used inhalants. Use in the past month was 2% or lower for all age groups.

Figure 12. Trends in the Percentage Reporting Inhalant Use in the Lifetime and Past Month, by Age Group: 1972-1990



+Note: Data not available for all survey years.

*Note: Low precision; no estimate reported.

Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1972-1990.

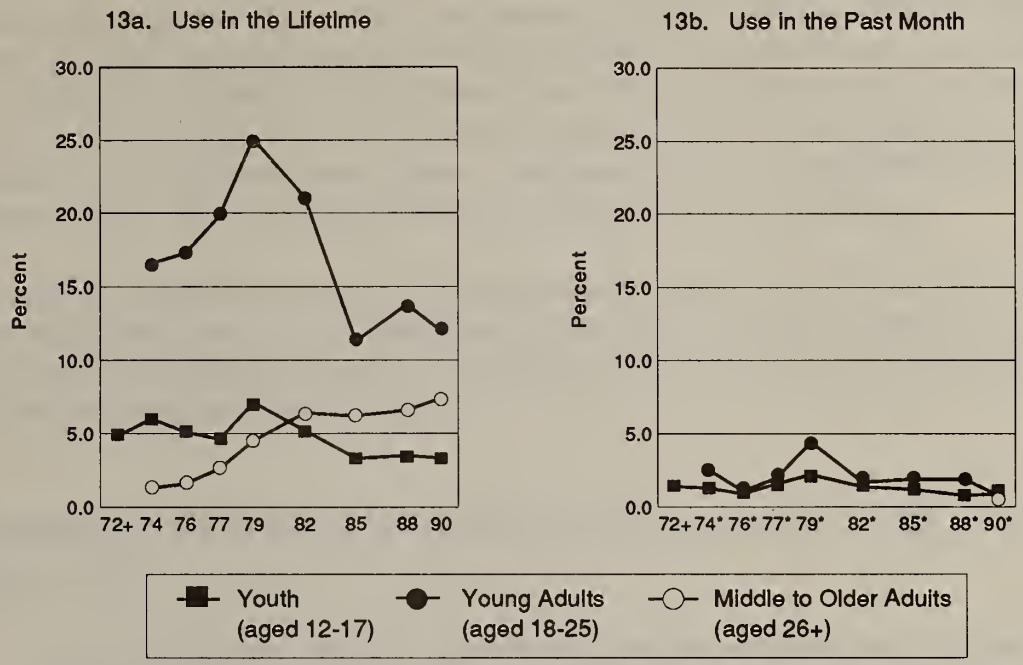
B. Hallucinogen Use (Figure 13)

- Almost 8% of the household population aged 12 and older reported they had ever used hallucinogens, and fewer than 0.5% had used hallucinogens in the past month (Figure 1).

- Young adults in each of the survey years were much more likely than youth or middle to older adults to report that they had ever used hallucinogens. In 1990, the rate of hallucinogen use in the lifetime was significantly higher among middle adults than among young adults ($p < .05$), older adults ($p < .001$), and youth ($p < .001$). Rates of use in the past month were relatively low among all age groups in 1990.

- Rates of use in the lifetime were highest in 1979 for young adults and youth and decreased thereafter. Lifetime use was steadily higher among middle to older adults from 1974 to 1990. This increase in lifetime rates among middle to older adults is expected because the rates largely indicate the past experience of these persons during periods of high rates of drug use.

Figure 13. Trends in the Percentage Reporting Hallucinogen Use in the Lifetime and Past Month, by Age Group: 1972-1990



+Note: Data not available for all survey years.

*Note: Low precision; no estimate reported.

Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1972-1990.

- Between 1988 and 1990, the percentages of each age group using hallucinogens in the lifetime and in the past month were relatively stable. The only statistically significant change in prevalence between 1988 and 1990 was the increase in lifetime use for those aged 35 and older.

- In 1990, approximately 12% of young adults, 7% of middle to older adults, and 3% of youth reported they had ever used hallucinogens. Fewer than 1% had used them in the past month.

C. Heroin Use (No Figure Presented)

- In 1990, fewer than 1% of the household population aged 12 and older reported they had used heroin in the lifetime. Use in the past month was so low that reliable estimates could not be developed from National Household Survey data.

- Rates of use of heroin in the lifetime were significantly higher among middle adults aged 18 to 25 than among young adults or older adults ($p < .05$), but the rates for each age group were 1% or lower.

VII. NONMEDICAL USE OF PSYCHOTHERAPEUTIC DRUGS

Psychotherapeutic drugs can be prescribed legally by physicians to treat physiological or psychological problems. These drugs can also be used illicitly, that is, obtained without a prescription or used in larger amounts or more frequently than prescribed. Discussion of the use of psychotherapeutic drugs in this report refers only to nonmedical use. The specific psychotherapeutics examined include stimulants ("uppers"), sedatives ("downers"), tranquilizers, and analgesics (pain killers). The measure "any psychotherapeutic drug" refers in this report to the nonmedical use of any of these four classes of drugs.

This chapter provides information on the prevalence and trends of nonmedical use of any psychotherapeutic drug among members of the U.S. household population, including prevalence of use by age group and other demographic characteristics, and the prevalence of use of specific psychotherapeutic drugs.

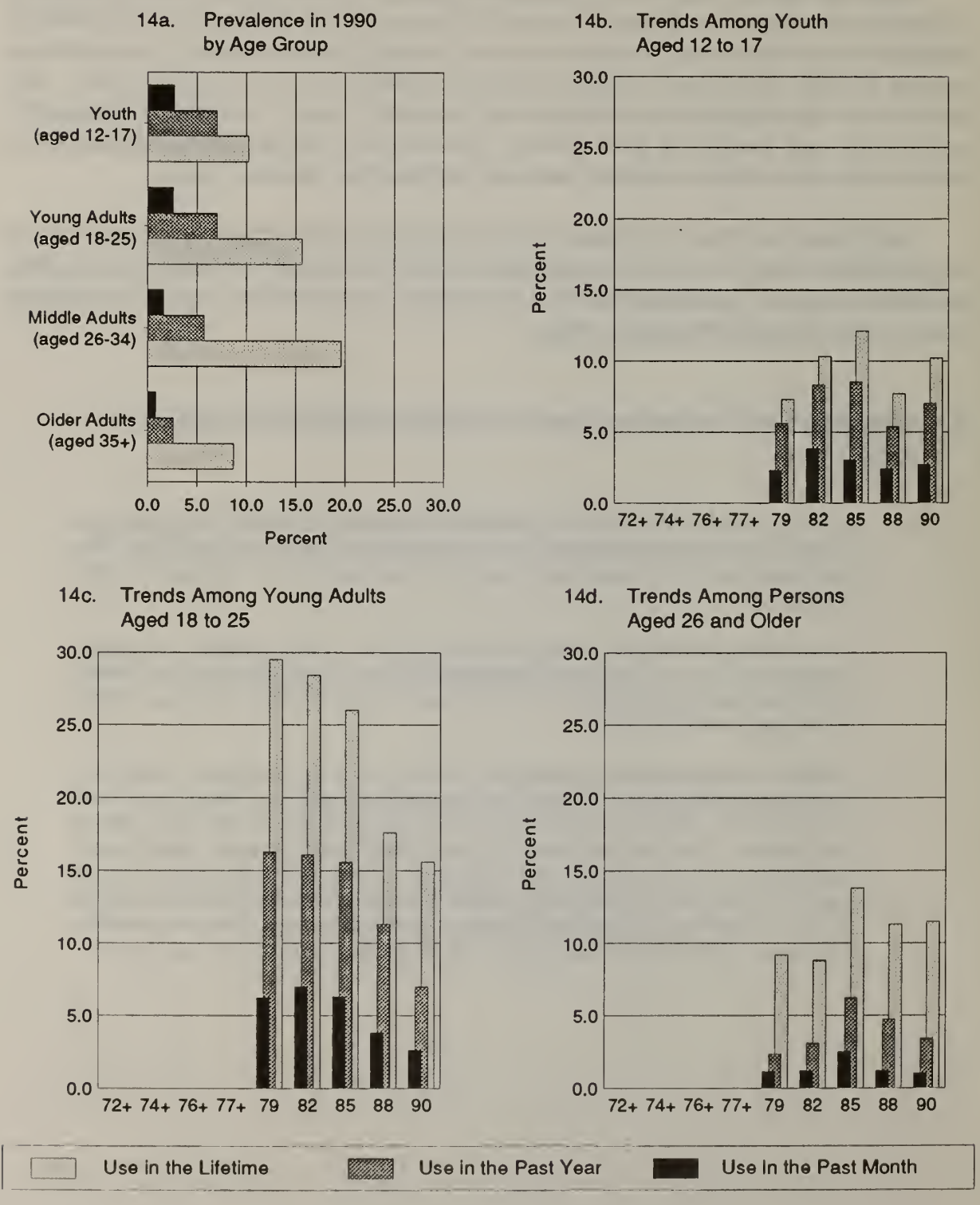
A. Prevalence of Nonmedical Use of Any Psychotherapeutic Drugs (Figure 14a)

- Approximately 12% of the household population reported that they had used a psychotherapeutic drug for nonmedical purposes in the lifetime, 4% had done so in the past year, and 1% had done so in the past month (Figure 1).

- Translating these percentages into numbers of individuals, 24 million members of the household population had ever used these drugs illicitly, 8.6 million had used them in the past year, and 2.9 million had used them in the past month (Table 1).

- Middle adults were the most likely of the four age groups to have ever used psychotherapeutic drugs for nonmedical reasons, while youth and young adults were the most likely to have used them in the past year or past month. The lifetime rates of use of middle adults were significantly higher than those for other age groups ($p < .001$), and the rates of use of young adults were significantly higher than for youth and older adults ($p < .001$). Youth and young adults were significantly more likely than middle and older adults to have used psychotherapeutic drugs in the past month.

Figure 14. Trends in the Percentage Reporting Nonmedical Use of Any Psychotherapeutic Drugs, by Age Group: 1979-1990


14a. Prevalence in 1990 by Age Group
Youth (aged 12-17)
Young Adults (aged 18-25)
Middle Adults (aged 26-34)
Older Adults (aged 35+)
0.0 5.0 10.0 15.0 20.0 25.0 30.0
Percent
14b. Trends Among Youth Aged 12 to 17
Percent
30.0 25.0 20.0 15.0 10.0 5.0 0.0
72+ 74+ 76+ 77+ 79 82 85 88 90
14c. Trends Among Young Adults Aged 18 to 25
Percent
30.0 25.0 20.0 15.0 10.0 5.0 0.0
72+ 74+ 76+ 77+ 79 82 85 88 90
14d. Trends Among Persons Aged 26 and Older
Percent
30.0 25.0 20.0 15.0 10.0 5.0 0.0
72+ 74+ 76+ 77+ 79 82 85 88 90
Use in the Lifetime
Use in the Past Year
Use in the Past Month

+Note: Data not available for 1972 to 1977.

Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1979-1990.

B. Trends in Nonmedical Use of Any Psychotherapeutic Drugs (Figures 14b, 14c, and 14d)

- The peak in the prevalence of use of psychotherapeutics in the lifetime was 1985 for youth and middle to older adults (persons aged 26 and older) and 1979 for young adults. Rates of use in the past month were highest in 1982 for youth and young adults and in 1985 for middle to older adults. The prevalence of use in the lifetime, past year, and past month generally decreased after these peaks. For example, the percentage of young adults using psychotherapeutic drugs in the past month decreased from approximately 7% in 1982 to 4% in 1988 and fewer than 3% in 1990.

- Between 1988 and 1990, the percentage using any psychotherapeutic drug in the lifetime, past year, or past month was relatively stable for most age groups. The exceptions were that the percentage of youth using psychotherapeutic drugs in the lifetime increased significantly and the percentage of young adults and middle to older adults using them in the past year decreased significantly.

C. Demographic Correlates of Nonmedical Use of Any Psychotherapeutic Drugs in the Past Month (Figure 15)

- Sex: The percentage of both males and females using any psychotherapeutic drugs in the past month was 1.4%. Some 1.4 million males and 1.5 million females in the household population used psychotherapeutic drugs in the past month.

- Race/Ethnicity: Blacks were more likely than whites and Hispanics to have used psychotherapeutic drugs in the past month, but the differences were not statistically significant. Proportionally, almost three-fourths of current psychotherapeutic users were white. More than 2 million whites and one-half million blacks, and fewer Hispanics or other racial/ethnic groups, were current psychotherapeutic users in 1990.

- Population Density: The percentage of residents of large metropolitan, small metropolitan, and nonmetropolitan areas who had used psychotherapeutics in the past month did not differ significantly. Approximately one-half of psychotherapeutic users lived in large metropolitan areas (1.4 million) and one-fourth in small metropolitan (0.8 million) or nonmetropolitan areas (0.6 million).

- Region: The percentage of residents in each of the four regions who were current psychotherapeutic users did not differ significantly. The South had the greatest proportion of psychotherapeutic users, and the fewest were from the Northeast. Roughly 1 million residents in the South were psychotherapeutic users, compared with 0.8 million in the North Central region, 0.6 million in the West, and 0.4 million in the Northeast.

Figure 15. Prevalence and Relative Proportion of Nonmedical Use of Any Psychotherapeutic Drugs in the Past Month, by Demographic Characteristics: 1990

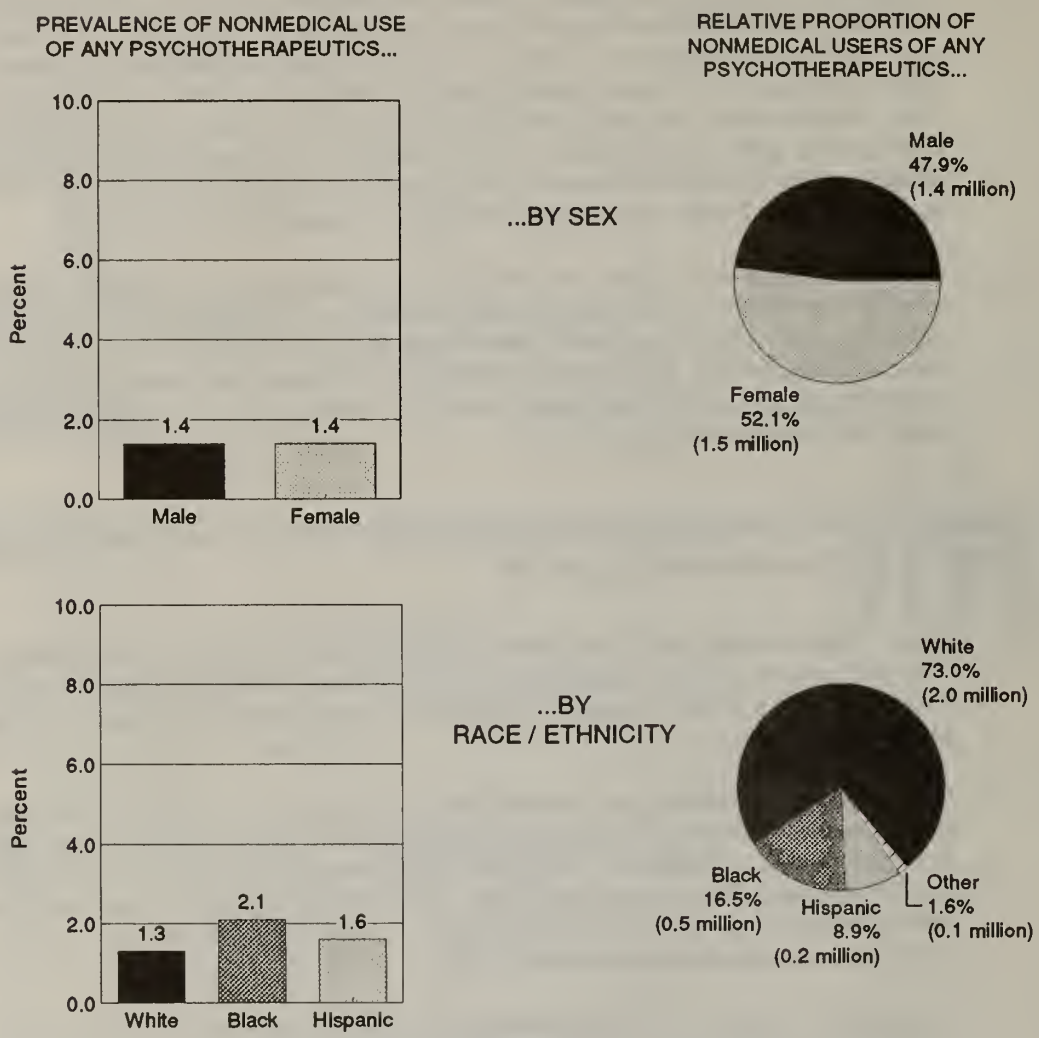
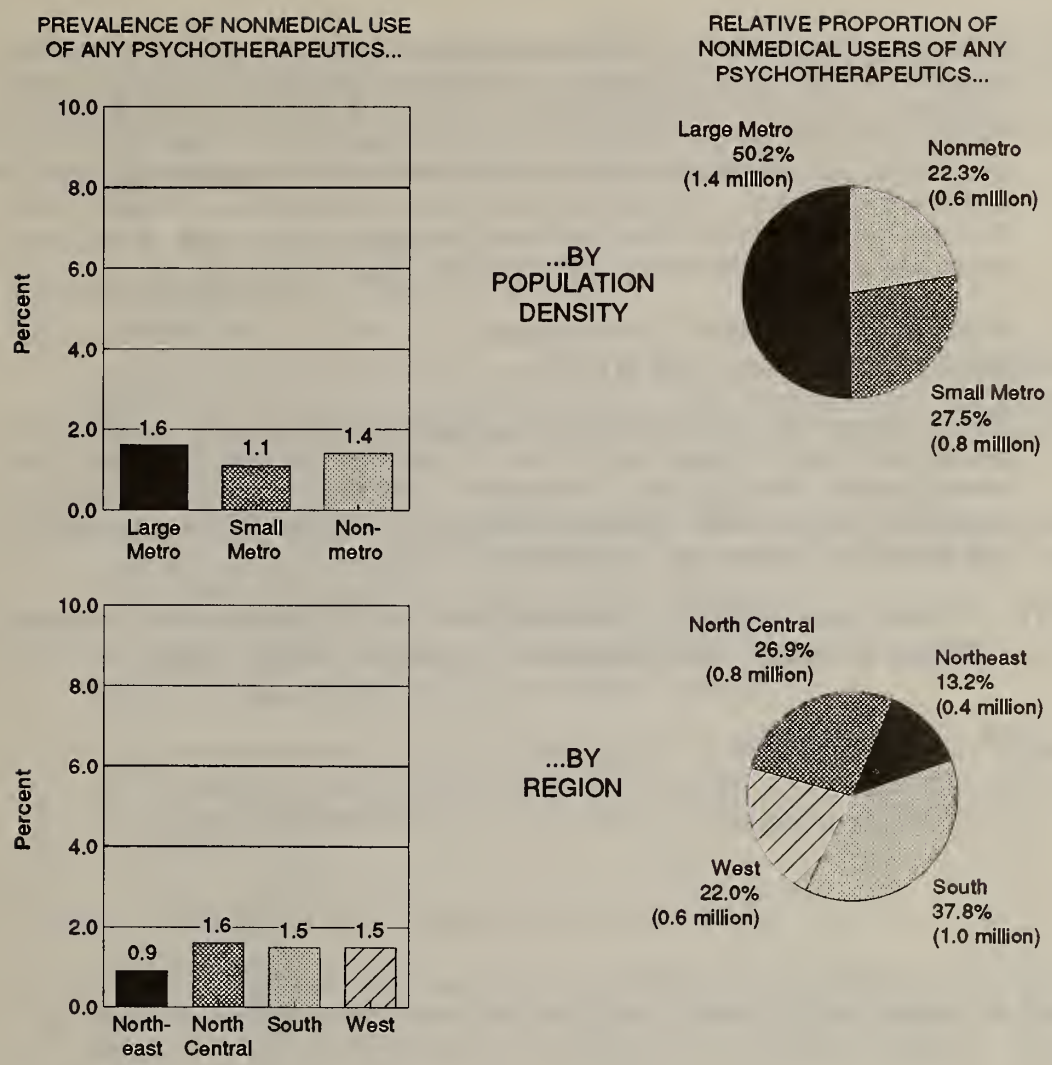


Figure 15 (continued)



Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1990.

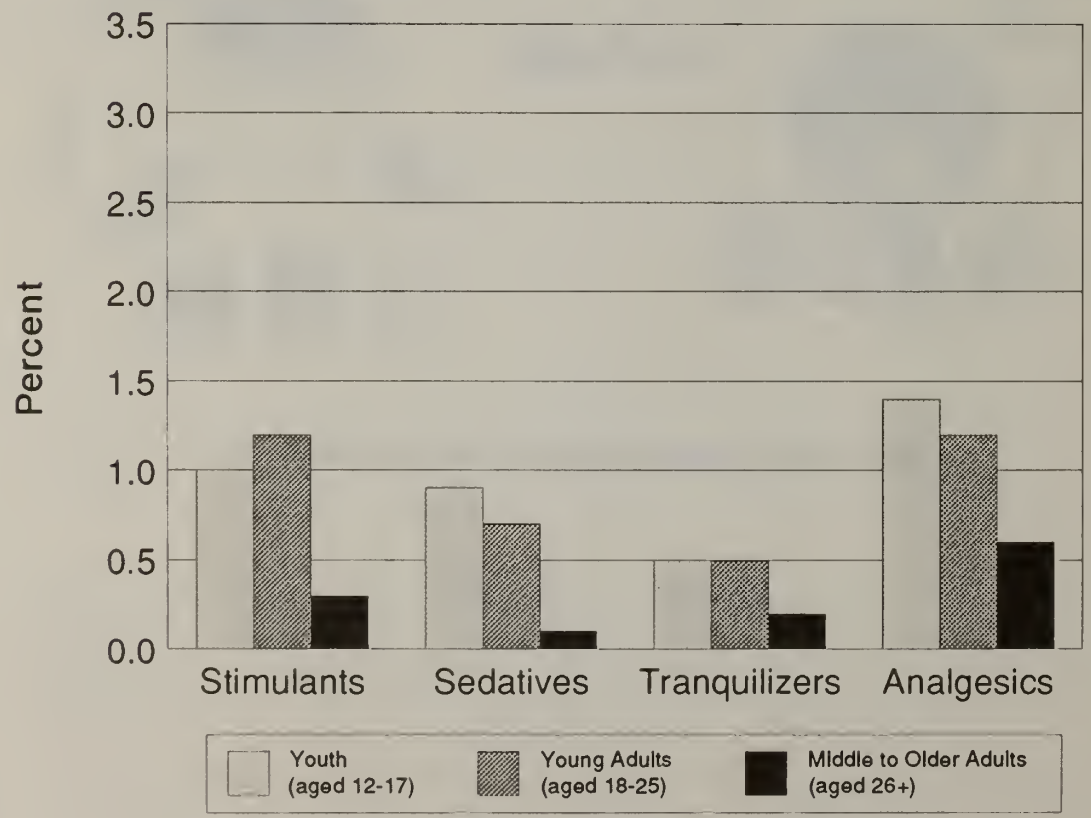
D. Prevalence of Nonmedical Use of Specific Psychotherapeutic Drugs (Figure 16)

- Among members of the total household population, stimulants were the psychotherapeutic drug most commonly used in the lifetime, and analgesics were the psychotherapeutic drug with the highest rates of use in the past year or past month. Approximately 7% of the total U.S. household population reported they had ever used stimulants compared with 6% for analgesics and 4% for sedatives or tranquilizers. Almost 1% of the total household population had used analgesics in the past month, and fewer had used the other psychotherapeutic drugs (Figure 1).

- Rates of use of specific psychotherapeutic drugs in the past month for the age groups were low, 1.4% or lower.

- Rates of current stimulant use were higher among young adults than among other age groups, while rates of sedative use and analgesic use were highest among youth. Tranquilizer use was equally likely among youth and young adults. Middle to older adults reported the lowest rates of use of each of the four psychotherapeutic drugs.

Figure 16. Percentage Reporting Nonmedical Use of Specific Psychotherapeutic Drugs in the Past Month, by Age Group: 1990



Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1990.

VIII. ALCOHOL

Alcohol is by far the most commonly used drug in the United States, probably because of its social acceptability, ready availability, and relatively low cost. This chapter examines the prevalence of any alcohol use by age group and other demographic characteristics, trends in any alcohol use, and the prevalence of heavy alcohol use.

A. Prevalence of Alcohol Use (Figure 17a)

- More than than 80% of the members of the U.S. household population aged 12 and older had used alcohol one or more times in the lifetime, 66% had used alcohol in the past year, and 51% had used it in the past month (Figure 1).
- These percentages translate to more than 167 million persons who had used alcohol in the lifetime, 132.9 million who used it in the past year, and 102.9 million who used it in the past month (Table 1).
- More than 80% of adults aged 18 and older had used alcohol in the lifetime, compared with 48% of youth aged 12 to 17.
- Approximately 63% of young adults aged 18 to 25 and middle adults aged 26 to 34 had used alcohol in the past month, a significantly greater percentage than the 25% of youth or 49% of older adults ($p < .001$).

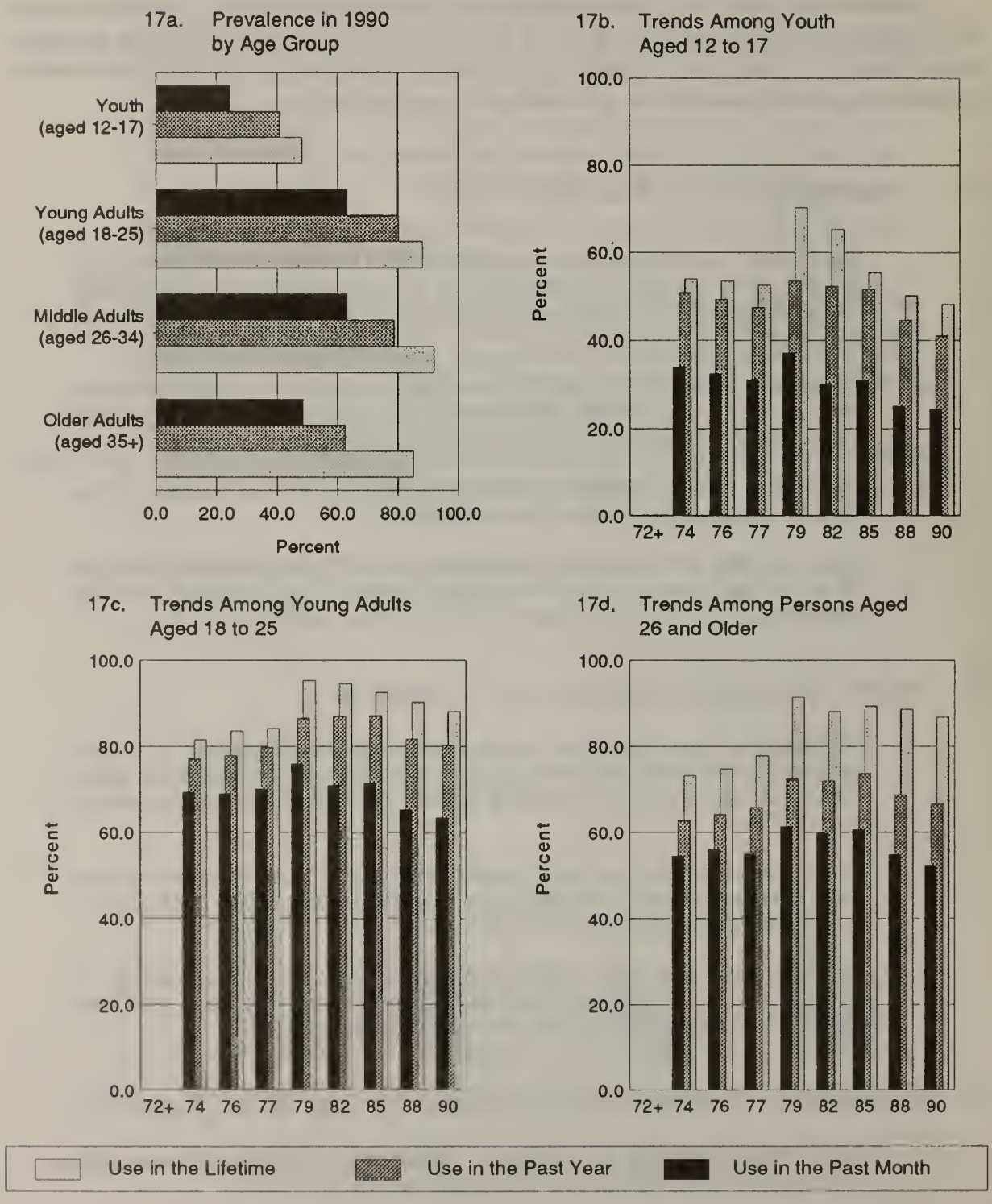
B. Trends in Alcohol Use (Figures 17b, 17c, and 17d)

- Lifetime, past year, and past month alcohol use was highest in 1979 and decreased thereafter for most age groups, although for middle to older adults the rate of alcohol use in the lifetime has remained relatively stable since 1979.
- The rates of alcohol use have been more stable than for other drugs, although the percentage of youth who reported they had ever used alcohol decreased dramatically from 1979 to 1990.
- Between 1988 and 1990, slight decreases occurred in the percentage of each age group reporting alcohol use in the lifetime, past year, and past month, but the decreases were not statistically significant.

C. Demographic Correlates of Alcohol Use in the Past Month (Figure 18)

- Sex: Males were significantly more likely than females to have used alcohol in the past month, 59% compared to 44% ($p < .001$).

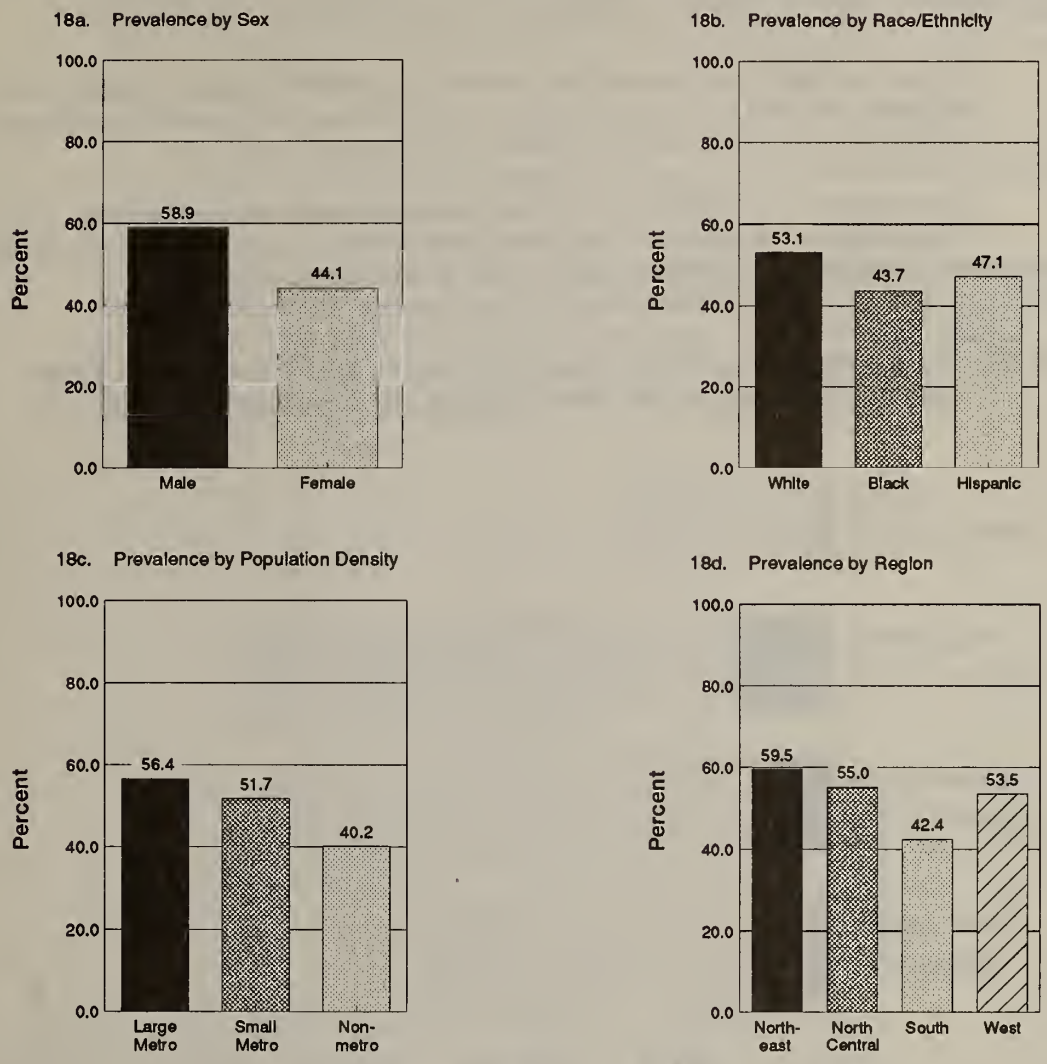
Figure 17. Trends in Percentage Reporting Alcohol Use, by Age Group: 1974-1990


17a. Prevalence in 1990 by Age Group
Youth (aged 12-17)
Young Adults (aged 18-25)
Middle Adults (aged 26-34)
Older Adults (aged 35+)
0.0 20.0 40.0 60.0 80.0 100.0
Percent
17b. Trends Among Youth Aged 12 to 17
Percent
100.0 80.0 60.0 40.0 20.0 0.0
72+ 74 76 77 79 82 85 88 90
17c. Trends Among Young Adults Aged 18 to 25
Percent
100.0 80.0 60.0 40.0 20.0 0.0
72+ 74 76 77 79 82 85 88 90
17d. Trends Among Persons Aged 26 and Older
Percent
100.0 80.0 60.0 40.0 20.0 0.0
72+ 74 76 77 79 82 85 88 90
Use in the Lifetime
Use in the Past Year
Use in the Past Month

+Note: Data not available for 1972.

Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1974-1990.

Figure 18. Prevalence of Alcohol Use in the Past Month, by Demographic Characteristics: 1990



Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1990.

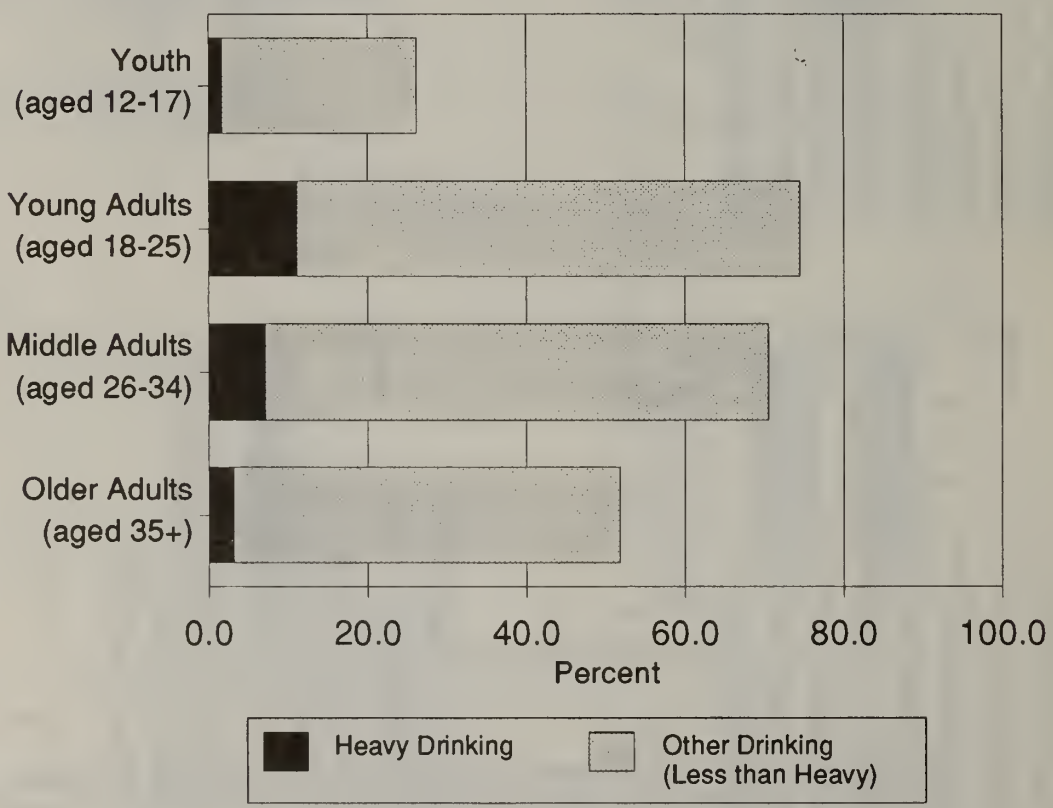
- Race/Ethnicity: Whites were significantly more likely than blacks or Hispanics to have used alcohol in the past month ($p < .001$), but the rates of use among blacks and Hispanics were similar.
- Population Density: Residents of large metropolitan areas and small metropolitan areas were significantly more likely than residents of non-metropolitan areas to have used alcohol in the past month ($p < .001$), while the rates of use of residents of large and small metropolitan areas were similar.
- Region: Residents of the Northeast, North Central, and West were significantly more likely than residents of the South to have used alcohol in the past month ($p < .001$).

D. Level of Alcohol Use (Figure 19)

Heavy drinking is defined as having five or more drinks on one occasion (i.e., "at one sitting" or within a couple of hours) on five or more occasions in the past month.

- Among members of the total household population, approximately 51% had used alcohol in the past month and 5% could be classed as heavy drinkers.
- Those aged 18 to 25 were most likely to have been heavy drinkers: 11% of those aged 18 to 25, 7% of those aged 26 to 34, 3% of those aged 35 and older, and 2% of those aged 12 to 17 were heavy drinkers.

Figure 19. Percentage Reporting Heavy Drinking and Other (Less Than Heavy) Drinking in the Past Month, by Age Group: 1990



Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1990.

E. Demographic Correlates of Heavy Alcohol Use (Table 2)

- Among members of the household population under age 21, the legal age for purchasing alcohol in most States, 34% had used alcohol in the past month and 4% were heavy drinkers. This compares with 54% of those who were aged 21 and older who drank in the past month and 5% who were heavy drinkers.

- Among those under age 21, males, whites, residents of nonmetropolitan areas, and residents of the Northeast were somewhat more likely than other groups to have been heavy alcohol users.

- Among those aged 21 and older, males, blacks and Hispanics, residents of large metropolitan areas, and residents of the North Central region were somewhat more likely than others to have been heavy alcohol users.

TABLE 2. Percentage of Persons Aged 12 to 20 and of Those Aged 21 or Older Reporting Any Alcohol Use and Heavy Alcohol Use In the Past Month, by Demographic Characteristics: 1990

Demographic Characteristics	Age Group (Years)					
	Persons Aged 12 to 20 (N=2,956)		Persons Aged 21 or Older (N=6,303)		Total (N=9,259)	
	Any Use	Heavy Use	Any Use	Heavy Use	Any Use	Heavy Use
Total	33.8	4.4	54.0	5.1	50.9	5.0
Sex						
Male	37.3	7.2	62.7	8.8	58.6	8.5
Female	30.3	1.7	46.2	1.7	43.9	1.7
Race/Ethnicity						
White	36.9	4.9	55.5	5.0	52.9	5.0
Black	26.3	2.8	47.9	5.7	43.6	5.1
Hispanic	28.8	3.1	51.7	6.0	46.8	5.4
Population Density						
Large Metropolitan	34.4	3.9	60.0	5.9	56.2	5.6
Small Metropolitan	36.3	4.6	54.1	4.0	51.5	4.1
Nonmetropolitan	29.5	5.2	42.0	5.1	39.9	5.1
Region						
Northeast	37.3	5.2	63.1	5.0	59.4	5.0
North Central	36.8	4.5	58.3	6.6	54.7	6.3
South	31.9	4.6	43.9	4.3	42.1	4.3
West	30.1	3.4	57.2	4.7	53.2	4.5

Note: Heavy use is defined as drinking five or more drinks per occasion on 5 or more days in the past 30 days.

Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1990.

IX. TOBACCO

Most Americans have either smoked cigarettes or used smokeless tobacco in the form of snuff or chewing tobacco. Tobacco use is of great concern because of its recognized addictive qualities and negative effects on health. This chapter examines the prevalence of cigarette smoking by age group and other demographic characteristics, trends in cigarette smoking, levels of cigarette smoking, and the prevalence of smokeless tobacco use.

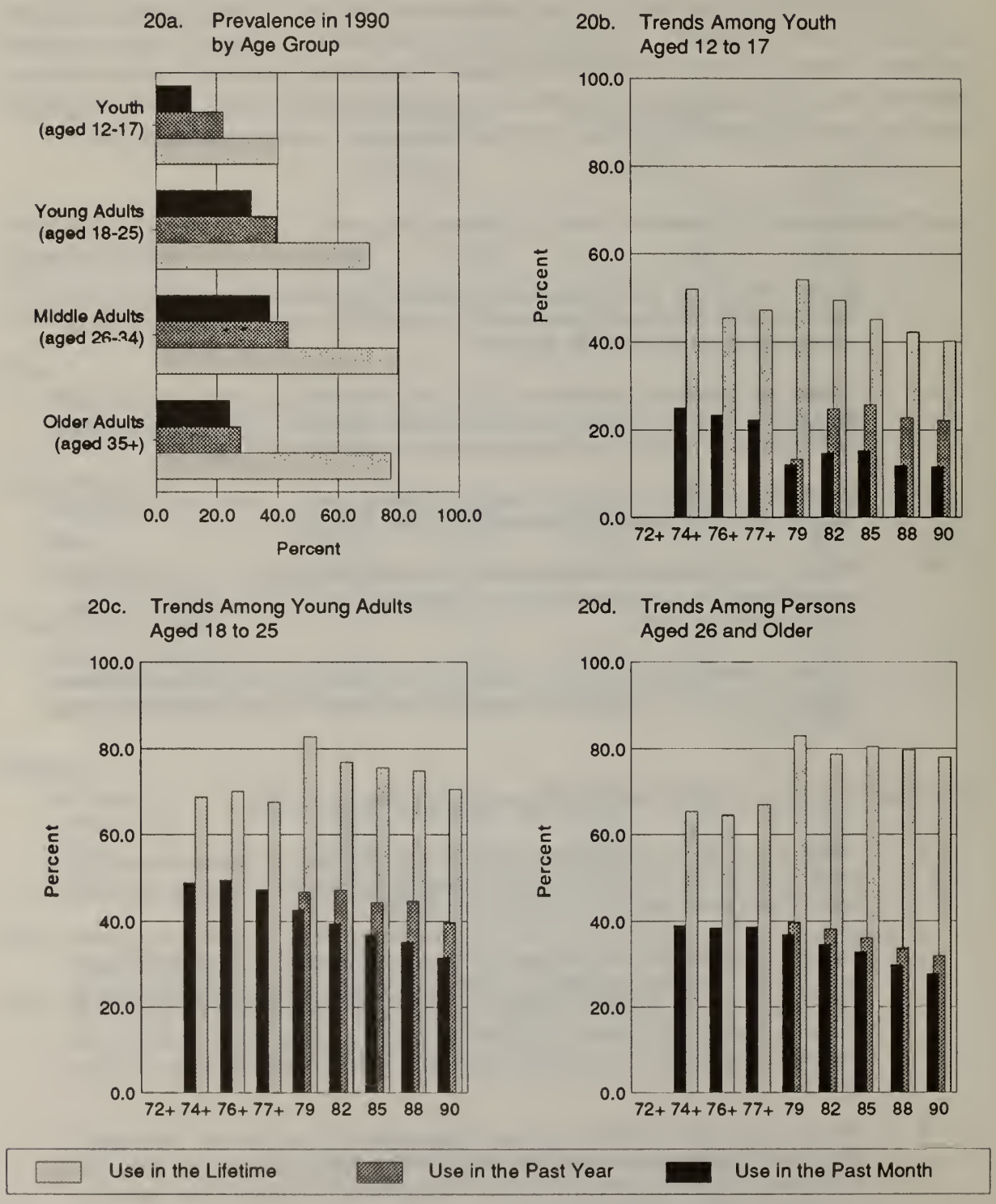
A. Prevalence of Cigarette Smoking (Figure 20a)

- Some 73% of the U.S. household population had smoked cigarettes in the lifetime, 32% smoked cigarettes in the past year, and 27% had smoked cigarettes in the past month (Figure 1).
- These percentages translate to 147 million members of the household population who had ever smoked cigarettes, 64 million who smoked in the past year, and 54 million who smoked in the past month (Table 1).
- Seventy percent or more of adults aged 18 and older had smoked cigarettes in the lifetime, compared with 40% of youth.
- Middle adults and older adults were significantly more likely than youth and young adults to have ever smoked cigarettes or to have smoked in the past month ($p < .001$).
- In 1990, approximately 12% of youth, 32% of young adults, 38% of middle adults, and 24% of older adults reported they had smoked cigarettes in the past month.

B. Trends in Cigarette Smoking (Figures 20b, 20c, and 20d)

- The percentage of youth and young adults reporting cigarette use in the lifetime was highest in 1979 and decreased thereafter. Rates for older adults have been relatively stable since 1979.
- Current cigarette use was higher during the 1970s than in the 1980s for all age groups. During the 1980s, current cigarette use decreased for young adults and middle to older adults, but use was more stable for youth. A more stringent definition of cigarette smoking was used in the 1979 National Household Survey and may preclude comparisons with other years.
- Between 1988 and 1990, the use of cigarettes in the lifetime, past year, and past month decreased for each of the age groups, but only the decreases in lifetime use and use in the past month among those aged 18 to 25 were statistically significant.

Figure 20. Trends in Percentage Reporting Cigarette Use, by Age Group: 1974-1990


20a. Prevalence in 1990 by Age Group
Youth (aged 12-17)
Young Adults (aged 18-25)
Middle Adults (aged 26-34)
Older Adults (aged 35+)
0.0 20.0 40.0 60.0 80.0 100.0
Percent
20b. Trends Among Youth Aged 12 to 17
20c. Trends Among Young Adults Aged 18 to 25
20d. Trends Among Persons Aged 26 and Older
Percent
100.0
80.0
60.0
40.0
20.0
0.0
72+ 74+ 76+ 77+ 79 82 85 88 90
Use in the Lifetime
Use in the Past Year
Use in the Past Month

+Note: Data not available for any estimates for 1972 and for past year estimates for 1974-1977.

Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1974-1990.

C. Demographic Correlates of Cigarette Smoking in the Past Month (Figure 21)

- Sex: Males were significantly more likely than females to have smoked cigarettes in the past month ($p < .001$).
- Race/Ethnicity: Whites and blacks were significantly more likely than Hispanics ($p < .001$ and $p < .01$, respectively) to have smoked cigarettes in the past month.
- Population Density: Residents of nonmetropolitan areas were more likely than residents of small metropolitan and large metropolitán areas to be current cigarette smokers. The difference between residents of nonmetropolitan areas and large metropolitan areas was statistically significant ($p < .01$).
- Region: There were significantly more current cigarette smokers among residents of the South and North Central regions than among residents of the Northeast and West.

D. Level of Cigarette Smoking (Figure 22 and Table 3)

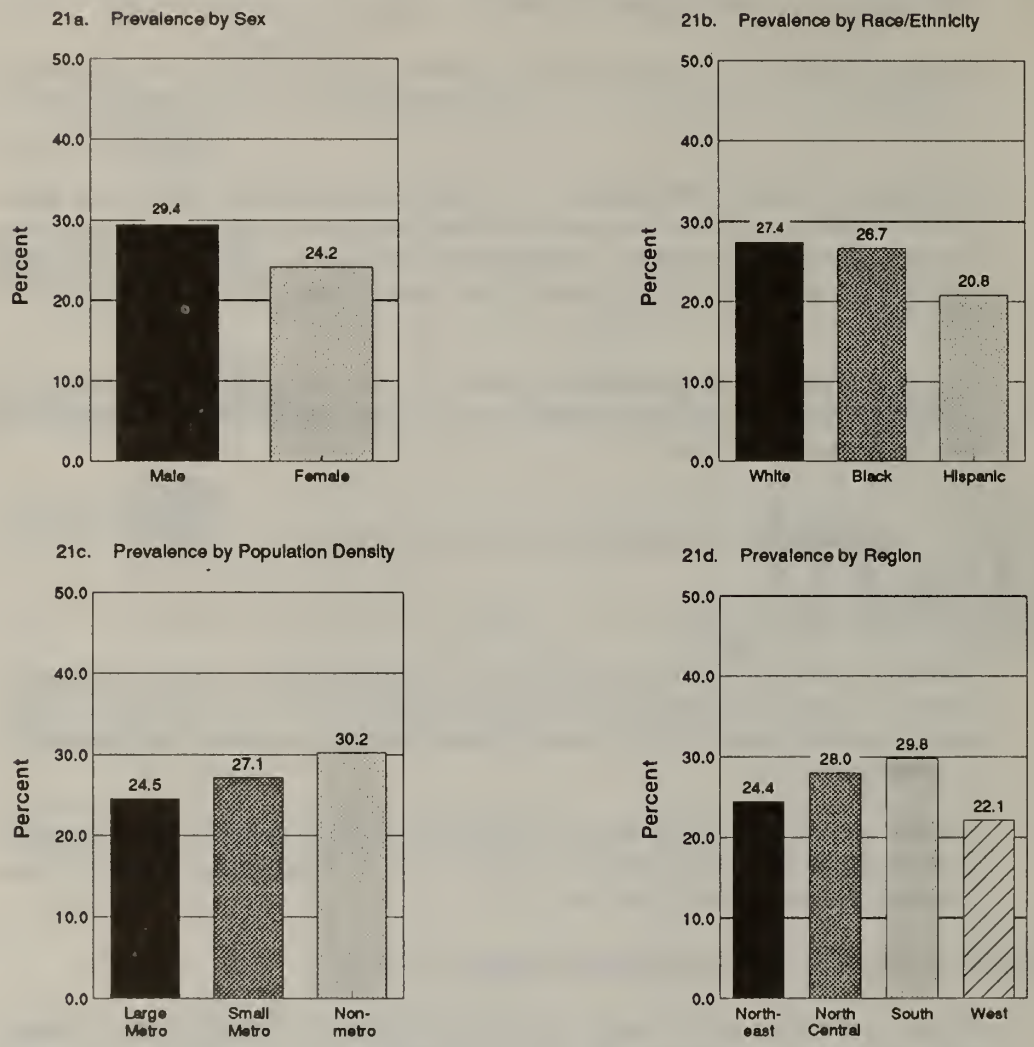
By Age Group (Figure 22)

- Middle adults aged 26 to 34 were the most likely to have smoked a pack or more of cigarettes per day in the past month (i.e., 22% of middle adults compared with about 15% of young adults and older adults and almost 3% of youth).
- Middle adults and young adults were about equally likely to have smoked cigarettes in the past month, but middle adults were more likely to have smoked a pack or more per day.

By Other Demographic Characteristics (Table 3)

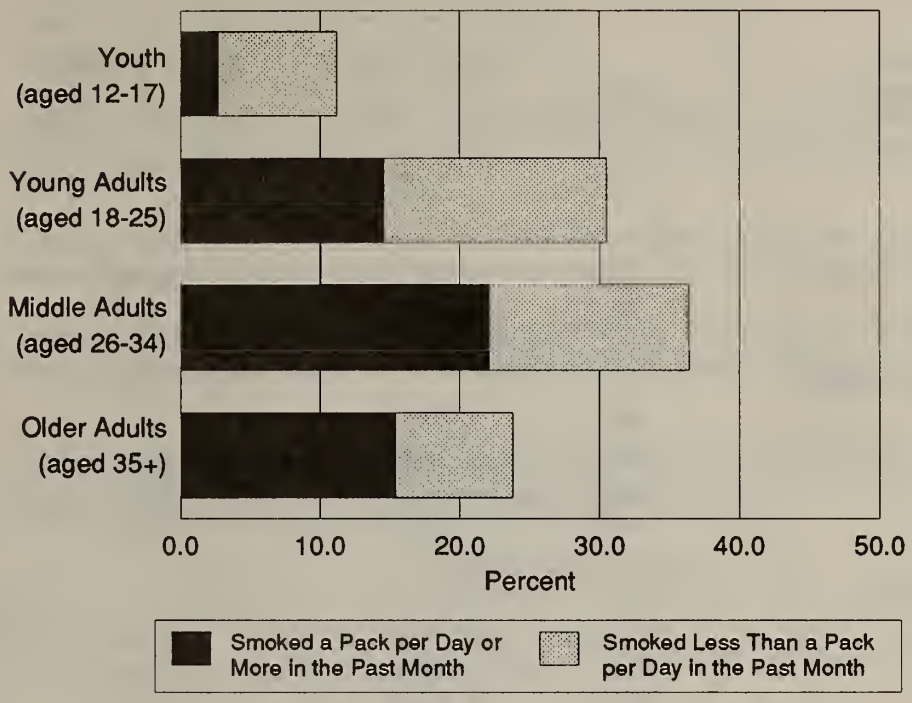
- Males, persons aged 26 to 34, whites, residents of nonmetropolitan areas, and residents of regions other than the West were more likely than other groups to have smoked a pack or more per day in the past month.
- Those aged 26 to 34 and residents of nonmetropolitan areas were much more likely than other demographic groups to have smoked a pack of cigarettes or more per day in the past month. More than 20% of these two groups smoked a pack or more per day.

Figure 21. Prevalence of Cigarette Use in the Past Month, by Demographic Characteristics: 1990



Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1990.

Figure 22. Percentage Reporting Having Smoked Less Than and More Than a Pack of Cigarettes per Day in the Past Month, by Age Group: 1990



Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1990.

TABLE 3. Percentage of Each Demographic Group Reporting Levels of Cigarette Use in the Past Month: 1990

Demographic Characteristics	Levels of Cigarette Use			
	None	Less Than a Pack per Day	About a Pack or More Per Day	Total
Total	74.0	10.6	15.3	100.0
Sex				
Male	71.4	10.7	17.9	100.0
Female	76.5	10.6	13.0	100.0
Age Group (Years)				
12-17	88.8	8.5	2.7	100.0
18-25	69.5	15.9	14.6	100.0
26-34	63.5	14.3	22.1	100.0
≥35	76.2	8.4	15.4	100.0
Race/Ethnicity				
White	73.3	9.4	17.4	100.0
Black	74.1	16.1	9.8	100.0
Hispanic	79.7	15.0	5.3	100.0
Population Density				
Large Metropolitan	76.2	11.7	12.2	100.0
Small Metropolitan	73.8	10.0	16.1	100.0
Nonmetropolitan	70.3	9.6	20.1	100.0
Region				
Northeast	76.1	8.0	15.9	100.0
North Central	72.6	10.9	16.5	100.0
South	71.1	11.8	17.0	100.0
West	78.5	10.9	10.7	100.0

Note: Less than a pack per day is defined as averaging 15 or fewer cigarettes per day in the past month. About a pack or more per day is defined as averaging 16 or more cigarettes per day in the past month.

Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1990.

E. Smokeless Tobacco Use (Table 4)

- Approximately 14% of the household population aged 12 and older reported they had used smokeless tobacco in the lifetime, 5% in the past year, and 3.5% in the past month (Figure 1).
- These percentages translate to more than 28 million who had ever used smokeless tobacco, almost 10 million in the past year, and 7 million in the past month (Table 1).
- Approximately 6% of those aged 18 to 25 were current users of smokeless tobacco, which is substantially higher than the rate for other age groups.
- Smokeless tobacco use in the past month was more common among males, whites, residents of nonmetropolitan areas, and Southerners.

TABLE 4. Percentage Reporting Smokeless Tobacco Use in the Past Month, by Age Group and Demographic Characteristics: 1990

Demographic Characteristic	Age Group (Years)				
	12-17	18-25	26-34	≥35	Total
Total	3.9	6.0	3.9	2.7	3.5
Sex					
Male	7.4	12.1	7.8	4.7	6.7
Female	*	*	*	1.0	0.6
Race/Ethnicity					
White	5.2	7.5	4.7	2.8	4.0
Black	*	*	*	4.1	2.5
Hispanic	*	*	1.7	*	1.1
Population Density					
Large Metropolitan	2.1	3.1	1.6	0.8	1.4
Small Metropolitan	4.2	6.3	5.1	2.5	3.6
Nonmetropolitan	6.4	11.5	7.1	6.8	7.5
Region					
Northeast	*	*	*	*	1.0
North Central	5.2	5.5	4.4	2.3	3.5
South	4.9	8.2	4.4	5.0	5.3
West	2.3	7.0	3.6	1.8	2.9

*Low precision; no estimate reported.

Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1990.

X. PATTERNS OF USE, PERCEPTIONS OF RISK, AND OPPORTUNITY TO USE ILLICIT DRUGS

This chapter examines three issues related to the use of illicit drugs and alcohol. The first section discusses the patterns of use of illicit drugs and alcohol in the past year. The second section presents perceptions of the harmfulness of use of illicit drugs, alcohol, and cigarettes. The third section examines the opportunity to use marijuana and cocaine and compares it with the actual levels of use.

A. Patterns of Use of Illicit Drugs and Alcohol in the Past Year (Figure 23)

Alcohol used in combination with illicit drugs often compounds the effects of either and may result in medical emergencies or death. Although the patterns of use of illicit drugs and alcohol examined here do not represent simultaneous use, but rather use sometime in the past year, they provide an indication of the likely exposure to the enhanced risk of simultaneous use. Figure 23 presents the percentages of the total population who used either alcohol or illicit drugs, both alcohol and illicit drugs, or neither in the past year (left pie chart) and among those who had used both alcohol and illicit drugs, the various patterns of use (right pie chart).

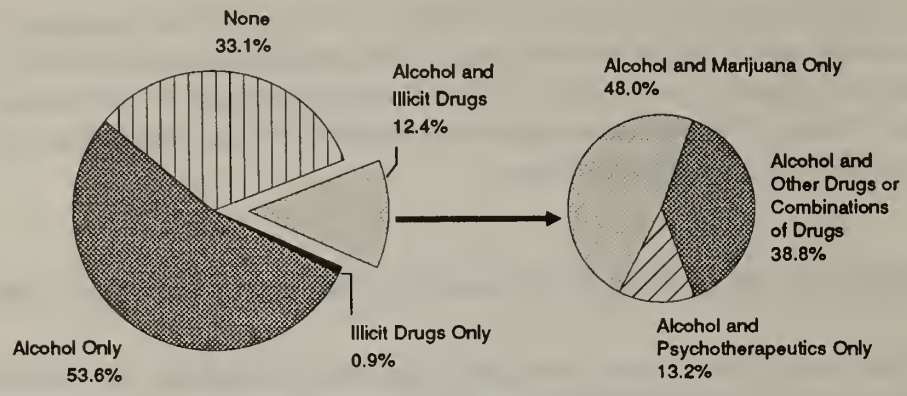
- Approximately one-third of the household population had used neither illicit drugs nor alcohol in the past year, and about one-half had used alcohol but not illicit drugs. Some 12% had used both alcohol and illicit drugs, and 1% had used illicit drugs only.

- Of the 12% using both alcohol and illicit drugs in the past year, about one-half had used alcohol and marijuana but no other illicit drugs; approximately 13% used alcohol and psychotherapeutic drugs for nonmedical reasons; and more than one-third used alcohol and illicit drugs other than marijuana and psychotherapeutic drugs (or various combinations of marijuana, psychotherapeutics, and other illicit drugs).

B. Perceptions of the Harmfulness of Using Illicit Drugs, Alcohol, and Cigarettes (Figure 24)

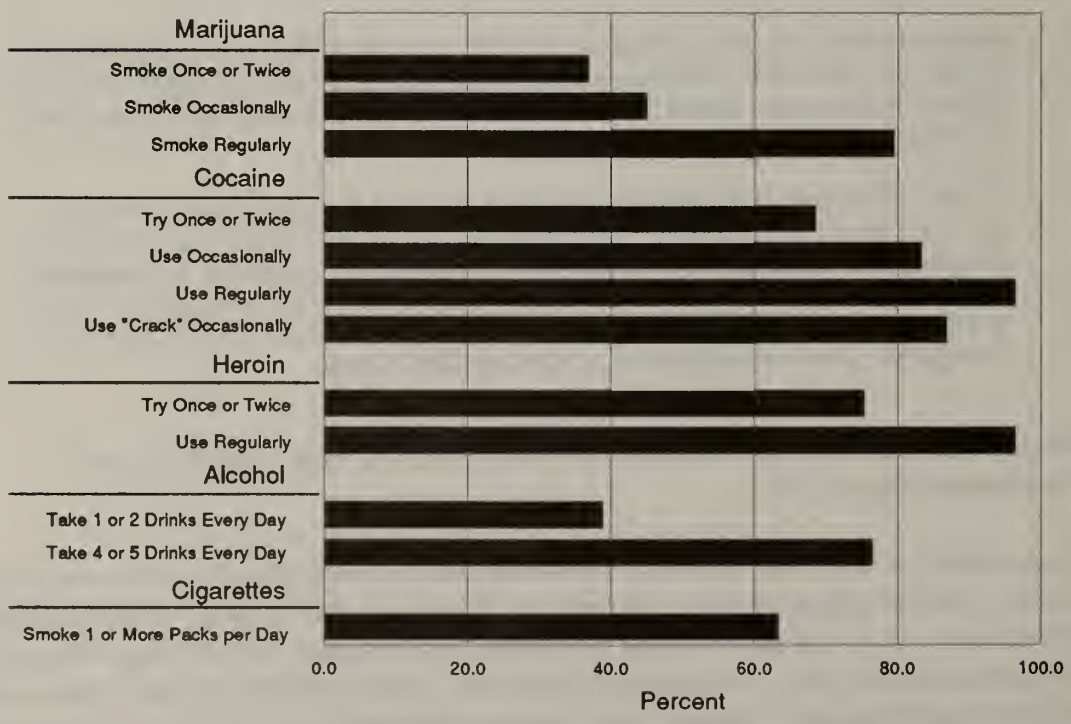
Respondents to the 1990 National Household Survey were asked the extent to which they thought people risked harming themselves physically and in other ways when they engaged in each of a number of types and levels of drug use. If potential drug users perceive use to be very risky, they may not begin use. Items concerning use of illicit drugs, alcohol, and cigarettes were included, and for most of the drugs, respondents were asked about the risk from using the drug occasionally or regularly. Responses to selected items in 1990 are presented in Figure 24.

Figure 23. Percentage of Total Population Reporting Different Patterns of Alcohol or Illicit Drug Use in the Past Year and Relative Proportions of Users of Both Illicit Drugs and Alcohol: 1990



Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1990.

Figure 24. Percentage of Total Population Who Think Great Risk Is Associated with Various Patterns of Illicit Drug, Alcohol, and Cigarette Use: 1990



Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1990.

- Smoking marijuana once or twice or having one or two drinks of alcohol nearly every day was perceived to be the least risky of all the drug use behaviors. About one-third of all respondents saw these behaviors to pose great risk to users.

- Regular cocaine use and regular heroin use were seen to be the most risky of all the drug use behaviors. Ninety-six percent of all respondents saw regular cocaine use or regular heroin use to pose great risk to users.

- For specific drugs, regular use was seen to be far riskier than occasional use.

- For almost all drugs and levels of use, older adults aged 35 and older were more likely than other age groups to perceive great risk from use of the drug. For occasional and regular marijuana use, the responses of youth and older adults were similar. Slightly more than half of youth and older adults perceived great risk to be associated with use (no figure presented).

C. Opportunity to Use Illicit Drugs and Prevalence of Use

A major enabler of drug use is simply the availability of drugs or the opportunity to use drugs. This section contrasts the opportunity to use marijuana or cocaine with the prevalence of use. Data are presented for young adults aged 18 to 25 because they have the highest rates of use of most illicit drugs.

Marijuana (Figure 25)

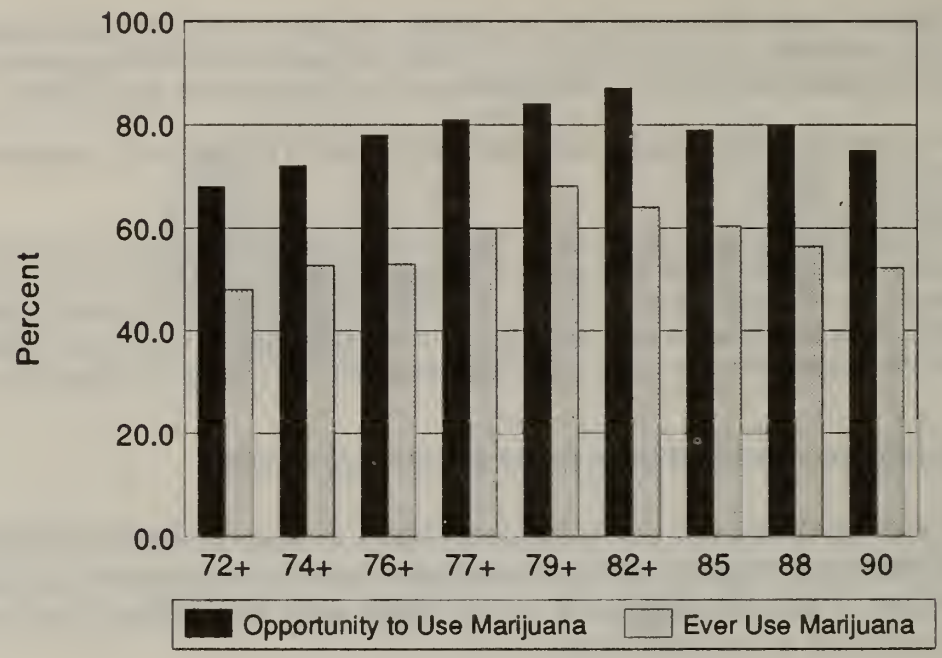
- Between 1972 and 1990, the majority of young adults reported that they have had the opportunity to use marijuana. The percentages reporting opportunity to use ranged from a low of 68% in 1972 to a peak of 87% in 1982 and decreased to 75% in 1990.

- Between 1988 and 1990, the percentage of young adults reporting opportunity to use marijuana decreased from 80% to 75%.

- Although the actual rates of use are considerably lower, perhaps three-fourths of those who have had the opportunity to use marijuana have done so.

- The trends in the prevalence of marijuana use mirror the trends in opportunity to use marijuana. That is, the prevalence of use has increased or decreased with the opportunity to use.

Figure 25. Trends in Opportunity to Use Marijuana and in Lifetime Marijuana Use Among Young Adults Aged 18 to 25: 1972-1990



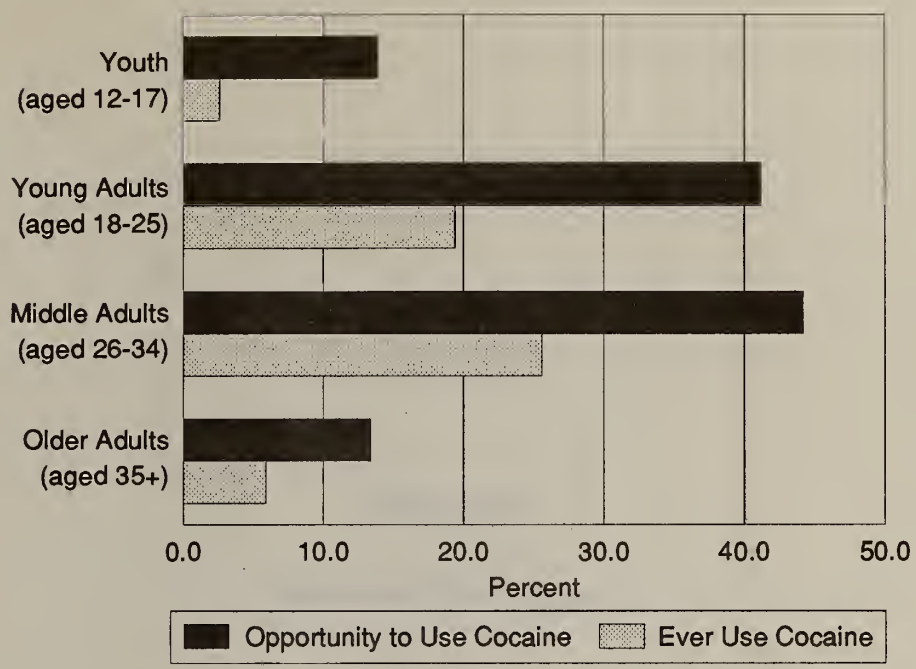
+Note: Data for Opportunity to Use for 1972 to 1982 are reconstructed from graphs in Highlights from the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse: 1977; 1982.

Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1972-1990.

Cocaine (Figure 26)

- More than 40% of young adults and middle adults reported that they have had the opportunity to use cocaine, compared with 13% to 14% of youth and older adults.
- Roughly one-half of young adults, middle adults, and older adults who reported the opportunity to use cocaine had done so, compared with about 20% of youth.

Figure 26. Percentage Reporting Opportunity to Use Cocaine and Lifetime Cocaine Use, by Age Group: 1990



Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1990.

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Table A.1 Number of Persons Interviewed (Unweighted N), by Age Group and Demographic Characteristics: 1990

Demographic Characteristic	Age Group (Years)				
	12-17	18-25	26-34	≥35	Total
Total	2,177	2,052	2,355	2,675	9,259
Sex					
Male	1,051	977	991	1,146	4,165
Female	1,126	1,075	1,364	1,529	5,094
Race/Ethnicity					
White	1,136	1,126	1,359	1,620	5,241
Black	448	414	460	520	1,842
Hispanic	526	448	462	479	1,915
Other	67	64	74	56	261
Population Density					
Large Metropolitan	1,277	1,305	1,496	1,596	5,674
Small Metropolitan	538	451	508	657	2,154
Nonmetropolitan	362	296	351	422	1,431
Region					
Northeast	324	300	338	459	1,421
North Central	353	330	391	417	1,491
South	1,015	980	1,109	1,246	4,350
West	485	442	517	553	1,997

Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1990.

Table A.2 Estimated Number of Persons (in Thousands) in U.S. Household Population, by Age Group and Demographic Characteristics: 1990

Demographic Characteristic	Age Group (Years)				
	12-17	18-25	26-34	≥35	Total
Total	19,978	29,021	38,821	113,368	201,188
Sex					
Male	10,221	14,194	19,118	52,848	96,382
Female	9,757	14,826	19,703	60,520	104,806
Race/Ethnicity					
White	14,136	21,261	29,322	92,707	157,427
Black	3,096	3,964	4,650	11,070	22,779
Hispanic	2,213	2,998	3,762	6,761	15,734
Other	533	797	1,087	2,831	5,248
Population Density					
Large Metropolitan	8,391	13,181	17,960	47,490	87,022
Small Metropolitan	6,576	9,531	12,403	40,376	68,886
Nonmetropolitan	5,011	6,309	8,458	25,502	45,279
Region					
Northeast	3,795	5,255	6,971	24,762	40,783
North Central	5,037	7,522	9,759	25,165	47,483
South	7,028	10,229	13,774	39,456	70,488
West	4,117	6,014	8,317	23,985	42,434

Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1990.

Table A.3 Percentage and Estimated Number of Users (in Thousands) of Illicit Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco in U.S. Household Population Aged 12 and Older in the Lifetime, Past Year, and Past Month: 1990

Drug	Time Period					
	Lifetime		Past Year		Past Month	
	Percent	Number of Users (Thousands)	Percent	Number of Users (Thousands)	Percent	Number of Users (Thousands)
Any Illicit Drug Use[1]	37.0	74,371	13.3	26,809	6.4	12,948
Marijuana/ Hashish	33.1	66,507	10.2	20,454	5.1	10,206
Cocaine	11.3	22,739	3.1	6,247	0.8	1,601
Crack	1.4	2,757	0.5	1,029	0.2	494
Inhalants	5.1	10,296	1.2	2,385	0.6	1,188
Hallucinogens	7.6	15,339	1.1	2,266	0.3	553
PCP	3.0	5,950	0.2	307	•	•
Heroin	0.8	1,654	0.2	471	•	•
Nonmedical Use of Any Psychotherapeutics[2]	11.9	24,025	4.3	8,567	1.4	2,858
Stimulants	6.9	13,963	1.5	3,109	0.5	957
Sedatives	3.7	7,515	1.1	2,233	0.3	568
Tranquilizers	4.3	8,668	1.3	2,538	0.3	568
Analgesics	5.7	11,408	2.5	4,999	0.8	1,536
Alcohol	83.2	167,380	66.0	132,872	51.2	102,919
Cigarettes	73.2	147,241	32.0	64,472	26.7	53,633
Smokeless Tobacco	14.1	28,372	4.9	9,822	3.5	7,111

•Low precision; no estimate reported.

[1]Nonmedical use of marijuana or hashish, cocaine (including crack), inhalants, hallucinogens (including PCP), heroin, or psychotherapeutics at least once.

[2]Nonmedical use of any prescription-type stimulant, sedative, tranquilizer, or analgesic; does not include over-the-counter drugs.

Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1990.

Table A.4 Percentage Reporting Any Illicit Drug Use in the Past Month, by Age Group and Demographic Characteristics: 1990

Demographic Characteristic	Age Group (Years)				
	12-17	18-25	26-34	≥35	Total
Total	8.1	14.9	9.8	2.8	6.4
Sex					
Male	8.6	18.9	11.0	3.7	7.9
Female	7.6	11.0	8.6	2.1	5.1
Race/Ethnicity[1]					
White	8.9	16.0	9.5	2.5	6.2
Black	6.7	13.7	13.7	5.1	8.6
Hispanic	6.5	11.4	9.4	3.0	6.6
Population Density					
Large Metropolitan	6.2	17.7	10.7	3.3	7.3
Small Metropolitan	9.9	14.3	9.2	2.6	6.1
Nonmetropolitan	9.1	9.8	8.6	2.3	5.3
Region					
Northeast	6.6	16.8	12.0	2.7	6.4
North Central	10.8	14.5	10.8	2.4	6.9
South	8.4	12.3	8.7	2.2	5.6
West	5.7	18.1	8.5	4.5	7.3

Note: Any illicit drug use is nonmedical use of marijuana or hashish, cocaine (including crack), inhalants, hallucinogens (including PCP), heroin, or psychotherapeutics at least once.

[1]The category "Other" for Race/Ethnicity is not included.

Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1990.

Table A.5 Trends in Percentage of Persons Aged 12 to 17 Reporting Drug Use in the Lifetime: 1972-1990

Drug (Unweighted N)	1972 (880)	1974 (952)	1976 (986)	1977 (1,272)	1979 (2,165)	1982 (1,581)	1985 (2,246)	1988 (3,095)	1990 (2,177)
Any Illicit Drug Use[1]	--	--	--	--	34.3	27.6ϒ	29.5	24.7	22.7
Marijuana/Hashish	14.0	23.0	22.4	28.0	30.9	26.7	23.6	17.4	14.8
Cocaine	1.5	3.6	3.4	4.0	5.4	6.5	4.9	3.4	2.6
Inhalants	6.4	8.5	8.1	9.0	9.8	--	9.2	8.8	7.8
Hallucinogens	4.8	6.0	5.1	4.6	7.1	5.2	3.3	3.5	3.3
Heroin	0.6	1.0	0.5	1.1	0.5	*	*	0.6	0.7
Nonmedical Use of Any Psychotherapeutics[2,3]	--	--	--	--	7.3	10.3	12.1	7.7	10.2+
Stimulants	4.0	5.0	4.4	5.2	3.4	6.7	5.6	4.2	4.5
Sedatives	3.0	5.0	2.8	3.1	3.2	5.8	4.1	2.3	3.3
Tranquilizers	3.0	3.0	3.3	3.8	4.1	4.9	4.8	2.0	2.7
Analgesics	--	--	--	--	3.2	4.2	5.8	4.1	6.5++
Alcohol[3]	--	54.0	53.6	52.6	70.3	65.2	55.5	50.2	48.2
Cigarettes[4]	--	52.0	45.5	47.3	54.1	49.5	45.2	42.3	40.2

-- Estimate not available.

*Low precision; no estimate reported.

[1]Nonmedical use of marijuana or hashish, cocaine (including crack), inhalants, hallucinogens (including PCP), heroin, or psychotherapeutics at least once.

[2]Nonmedical use of any prescription-type stimulant, sedative, tranquilizer, or analgesic; does not include over-the-counter drugs.

[3]Estimates prior to 1979 for alcohol, and 1982 for psychotherapeutics, may not be comparable to those for later years due to a change in methodology.

[4]For 1979, includes only persons who ever smoked at least five packs.

ϒThe exclusion of inhalants in 1982 is believed to have resulted in underestimates in any illicit use for that year, especially for 12- to 17-year-olds.

+Difference between 1988 and 1990 statistically significant at the .05 level.

++Difference between 1988 and 1990 statistically significant at the .01 level.

+++Difference between 1988 and 1990 statistically significant at the .001 level.

Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1972-1990.

Table A.6 Trends in Percentage of Persons Aged 12 to 17 Reporting Drug Use in the Past Year: 1972-1990

Drug (Unweighted N)	1972 (880)	1974 (952)	1976 (986)	1977 (1,272)	1979 (2,165)	1982 (1,581)	1985 (2,246)	1988 (3,095)	1990 (2,177)
Any Illicit Drug Use[1]	--	--	--	--	26.0	22.0ϒ	23.7	16.8	15.9
Marijuana/Hashish	--	18.5	18.4	22.3	24.1	20.6	19.7	12.6	11.3
Cocaine	1.5	2.7	2.3	2.6	4.2	4.1	4.0	2.9	2.2
Inhalants	2.9	2.4	2.9	2.2	4.6	--	5.1	3.9	4.0
Hallucinogens	3.6	4.3	2.8	3.1	4.7	3.6	2.7	2.8	2.4
Heroin	*	*	*	0.6	*	*	*	0.4	0.6
Nonmedical Use of Any Psychotherapeutics[2,3]	--	--	--	--	5.6	8.3	8.5	5.4	7.0
Stimulants	--	3.0	2.2	3.7	2.9	5.6	4.3	2.8	3.0
Sedatives	--	2.0	1.2	2.0	2.2	3.7	2.9	1.7	2.2
Tranquilizers	--	2.0	1.8	2.9	2.7	3.3	3.4	1.5	1.5
Analgesics	--	--	--	--	2.2	3.7	3.8	3.0	4.8+
Alcohol[3]	--	51.0	49.3	47.5	53.6	52.4	51.7	44.6	41.0
Cigarettes[4]	--	--	--	--	13.3	24.8	25.8	22.8	22.2

-- Estimate not available.

*Low precision; no estimate reported.

[1]Nonmedical use of marijuana or hashish, cocaine (including crack), inhalants, hallucinogens (including PCP), heroin, or psychotherapeutics at least once.

[2]Nonmedical use of any prescription-type stimulant, sedative, tranquilizer, or analgesic; does not include over-the-counter drugs.

[3]Estimates prior to 1979 for alcohol, and 1982 for psychotherapeutics, may not be comparable to those for later years due to a change in methodology.

[4]For 1979, includes only persons who ever smoked at least five packs.

ϒThe exclusion of inhalants in 1982 is believed to have resulted in underestimates in any illicit use for that year, especially for 12- to 17-year-olds.

+Difference between 1988 and 1990 statistically significant at the .05 level.

++Difference between 1988 and 1990 statistically significant at the .01 level.

+++Difference between 1988 and 1990 statistically significant at the .001 level.

Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1972-1990.

Table A.7 Trends in Percentage of Persons Aged 12 to 17 Reporting Drug Use in the Past Month: 1972-1990

Drug (Unweighted N)	1972 (880)	1974 (952)	1976 (986)	1977 (1,272)	1979 (2,165)	1982 (1,581)	1985 (2,246)	1988 (3,095)	1990 (2,177)
Any Illicit Drug Use[1]	--	--	--	--	17.6	12.7ϒ	14.9	9.2	8.1
Marijuana/Hashish	7.0	12.0	12.3	16.6	16.7	11.5	12.0	6.4	5.2
Cocaine	0.6	1.0	1.0	0.8	1.4	1.6	1.5	1.1	0.6
Inhalants	1.0	0.7	0.9	0.7	2.0	--	3.4	2.0	2.2
Hallucinogens	1.4	1.3	0.9	1.6	2.2	1.4	1.2	0.8	0.9
Heroin	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Nonmedical Use of Any Psychotherapeutics[2,3]	--	--	--	--	2.3	3.8	3.0	2.4	2.7
Stimulants	--	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.2	2.6	1.6	1.2	1.0
Sedatives	--	1.0	*	0.8	1.1	1.3	1.0	0.6	0.9
Tranquilizers	--	1.0	1.1	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.6	0.2	0.5
Analgesics	--	--	--	--	0.6	0.7	1.6	0.9	1.4
Alcohol[3]	--	34.0	32.4	31.2	37.2	30.2	31.0	25.2	24.5
Cigarettes[4]	--	25.0	23.4	22.3	12.1	14.7	15.3	11.8	11.6

-- Estimate not available.

*Low precision; no estimate reported.

[1]Nonmedical use of marijuana or hashish, cocaine (including crack), inhalants, hallucinogens (including PCP), heroin, or psychotherapeutics at least once.

[2]Nonmedical use of any prescription-type stimulant, sedative, tranquilizer, or analgesic; does not include over-the-counter drugs.

[3]Estimates prior to 1979 for alcohol, and 1982 for psychotherapeutics, may not be comparable to those for later years due to a change in methodology.

[4]For 1979, includes only persons who ever smoked at least five packs.

ϒThe exclusion of inhalants in 1982 is believed to have resulted in underestimates in any illicit use for that year, especially for 12- to 17-year-olds.

+Difference between 1988 and 1990 statistically significant at the .05 level.

++Difference between 1988 and 1990 statistically significant at the .01 level.

+++Difference between 1988 and 1990 statistically significant at the .001 level.

Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1972-1990.

Table A.8 Trends in Percentage of Persons Aged 18 to 25 Reporting Drug Use in the Lifetime: 1972-1990

Drug (Unweighted N)	1972 (772)	1974 (849)	1976 (882)	1977 (1,500)	1979 (2,044)	1982 (1,283)	1985 (1,813)	1988 (1,505)	1990 (2,052)
Any Illicit Drug Use[1]	--	--	--	--	69.9	65.3ϒ	64.3	58.9	55.8
Marijuana/Hashish	47.9	52.7	52.9	59.9	68.2	64.1	60.3	56.4	52.2+
Cocaine	9.1	12.7	13.4	19.1	27.5	28.3	25.2	19.7	19.4
Inhalants	--	9.2	9.0	11.2	16.5	--	12.4	12.5	10.4
Hallucinogens	--	16.6	17.3	19.8	25.1	21.1	11.3	13.8	12.0
Heroin	4.6	4.5	3.9	3.6	3.5	1.2	1.2	0.3	0.6
Nonmedical Use of Any Psychotherapeutics[2,3]	--	--	--	--	29.5	28.4	26.0	17.6	15.6
Stimulants	12.0	17.0	16.6	21.2	18.2	18.0	17.1	11.3	9.0
Sedatives	10.0	15.0	11.9	18.4	17.0	18.7	11.0	5.5	4.0
Tranquilizers	7.0	10.0	9.1	13.4	15.8	15.1	12.0	7.8	5.9
Analgesics	--	--	--	--	11.8	12.1	11.3	9.4	8.1
Alcohol[3]	--	81.6	83.6	84.2	95.3	94.6	92.6	90.3	88.2
Cigarettes[4]	--	68.8	70.1	67.6	82.8	76.9	75.6	74.9	70.5+

-- Estimate not available.

*Low precision; no estimate reported.

[1]Nonmedical use of marijuana or hashish, cocaine (including crack), inhalants, hallucinogens (including PCP), heroin, or psychotherapeutics at least once.

[2]Nonmedical use of any prescription-type stimulant, sedative, tranquilizer, or analgesic; does not include over-the-counter drugs.

[3]Estimates prior to 1979 for alcohol, and 1982 for psychotherapeutics, may not be comparable to those for later years due to a change in methodology.

[4]For 1979, includes only persons who ever smoked at least five packs.

ϒThe exclusion of inhalants in 1982 is believed to have resulted in underestimates in any illicit use for that year, especially for 12- to 17-year-olds.

+Difference between 1988 and 1990 statistically significant at the .05 level.

++Difference between 1988 and 1990 statistically significant at the .01 level.

+++Difference between 1988 and 1990 statistically significant at the .001 level.

Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1972-1990.

Table A.9 Trends in Percentage of Persons Aged 18 to 25 Reporting Drug Use in the Past Year: 1972-1990

Drug (Unweighted N)	1972 (772)	1974 (849)	1976 (882)	1977 (1,500)	1979 (2,044)	1982 (1,283)	1985 (1,813)	1988 (1,505)	1990 (2,052)
Any Illicit Drug Use[1]	--	--	--	--	49.4	43.4ϒ	42.6	32.0	28.7
Marijuana/Hashish	--	34.2	35.0	38.7	46.9	40.4	36.9	27.9	24.6
Cocaine	--	8.1	7.0	10.2	19.6	18.8	16.3	12.1	7.5++
Inhalants	--	1.2	1.4	1.7	3.8	--	2.1	4.1	3.0
Hallucinogens	--	6.1	6.0	6.4	9.9	6.9	4.0	5.6	3.9
Heroin	--	0.8	0.6	1.2	0.8	*	0.6	0.3	0.5
Nonmedical Use of Any Psychotherapeutics[2,3]	--	--	--	--	16.3	16.1	15.6	11.3	7.0+++
Stimulants	--	8.0	8.8	10.4	10.1	10.8	9.9	6.4	3.4++
Sedatives	--	4.2	5.7	8.2	7.3	8.7	5.0	3.3	2.0
Tranquilizers	--	4.6	6.2	7.8	7.1	5.9	6.4	4.6	2.4++
Analgesics	--	--	--	--	5.2	4.4	6.6	5.5	4.1
Alcohol[3]	--	77.1	77.9	79.8	86.6	87.1	87.2	81.7	80.2
Cigarettes[4]	--	--	--	--	46.7	47.2	44.3	44.7	39.7+

-- Estimate not available.

*Low precision; no estimate reported.

[1]Nonmedical use of marijuana or hashish, cocaine (including crack), inhalants, hallucinogens (including PCP), heroin, or psychotherapeutics at least once.

[2]Nonmedical use of any prescription-type stimulant, sedative, tranquilizer, or analgesic; does not include over-the-counter drugs.

[3]Estimates prior to 1979 for alcohol, and 1982 for psychotherapeutics, may not be comparable to those for later years due to a change in methodology.

[4]For 1979, includes only persons who ever smoked at least five packs.

ϒThe exclusion of inhalants in 1982 is believed to have resulted in underestimates in any illicit use for that year, especially for 12- to 17-year-olds.

+Difference between 1988 and 1990 statistically significant at the .05 level.

++Difference between 1988 and 1990 statistically significant at the .01 level.

+++Difference between 1988 and 1990 statistically significant at the .001 level.

Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1972-1990.

Table A.10 Trends in Percentage of Persons Aged 18 to 25 Reporting Drug Use in the Past Month: 1972-1990

Drug (Unweighted N)	1972 (772)	1974 (849)	1976 (882)	1977 (1,500)	1979 (2,044)	1982 (1,283)	1985 (1,813)	1988 (1,505)	1990 (2,052)
Any Illicit Drug Use[1]	--	--	--	--	37.1	30.4ϒ	25.7	17.8	14.9
Marijuana/Hashish	27.8	25.2	25.0	27.4	35.4	27.4	21.8	15.5	12.7
Cocaine	--	3.1	2.0	3.7	9.3	6.8	7.6	4.5	2.2+
Inhalants	--	*	0.5	*	1.2	--	0.8	1.7	1.2
Hallucinogens	--	2.5	1.1	2.0	4.4	1.7	1.9	1.9	0.8
Heroin	--	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Nonmedical Use of Any Psychotherapeutics[2,3]	--	--	--	--	6.2	7.0	6.3	3.8	2.6
Stimulants	--	3.7	4.7	2.5	3.5	4.7	3.7	2.4	1.2
Sedatives	--	1.6	2.3	2.8	2.8	2.6	1.6	0.9	0.7
Tranquilizers	--	1.2	2.6	2.4	2.1	1.6	1.6	1.0	0.5
Analgesics	--	--	--	--	1.0	1.0	1.8	1.5	1.2
Alcohol[3]	--	69.3	69.0	70.0	75.9	70.9	71.4	65.3	63.3
Cigarettes[4]	--	48.8	49.4	47.3	42.6	39.5	36.8	35.2	31.5

-- Estimate not available.

*Low precision; no estimate reported.

[1]Nonmedical use of marijuana or hashish, cocaine (including crack), inhalants, hallucinogens (including PCP), heroin, or psychotherapeutics at least once.

[2]Nonmedical use of any prescription-type stimulant, sedative, tranquilizer, or analgesic; does not include over-the-counter drugs.

[3]Estimates prior to 1979 for alcohol, and 1982 for psychotherapeutics, may not be comparable to those for later years due to a change in methodology.

[4]For 1979, includes only persons who ever smoked at least five packs.

ϒThe exclusion of inhalants in 1982 is believed to have resulted in underestimates in any illicit use for that year, especially for 12- to 17-year-olds.

+Difference between 1988 and 1990 statistically significant at the .05 level.

++Difference between 1988 and 1990 statistically significant at the .01 level.

+++Difference between 1988 and 1990 statistically significant at the .001 level.

Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1972-1990.

Table A.11 Trends in Percentage of Persons Aged 26 and Older Reporting Drug Use in the Lifetime: 1972-1990

Drug (Unweighted N)	1972 (1,613)	1974 (2,221)	1976 (1,708)	1977 (1,822)	1979 (3,015)	1982 (2,760)	1985 (3,979)	1988 (4,214)	1990 (5,030)
Any Illicit Drug Use[1]	--	--	--	--	23.0	24.7ϒ	31.5	33.7	35.3
Marijuana/Hashish	7.4	9.9	12.9	15.3	19.6	23.0	27.2	30.7	31.8
Cocaine	1.6	0.9	1.6	2.6	4.3	8.5	9.5	9.9	10.9
Inhalants	--	1.2	1.9	1.8	3.9	--	5.0	3.9	3.8
Hallucinogens	--	1.3	1.6	2.6	4.5	6.4	6.2	6.6	7.4
Heroin	*	0.5	0.5	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.9
Nonmedical Use of Any Psychotherapeutics[2,3]	--	--	--	--	9.2	8.8	13.8	11.3	11.5
Stimulants	3.0	3.0	5.6	4.7	5.8	6.2	7.9	6.6	6.9
Sedatives	2.0	2.0	2.4	2.8	3.5	4.8	5.2	3.3	3.7
Tranquilizers	5.0	2.0	2.7	2.6	3.1	3.6	7.2	4.5	4.2
Analgesics	--	--	--	--	2.7	3.2	5.6	4.5	5.1
Alcohol[3]	--	73.2	74.7	77.9	91.5	88.2	89.4	88.6	86.8
Cigarettes[4]	--	65.4	64.5	67.0	83.0	78.7	80.5	79.6	78.0

-- Estimate not available.

*Low precision; no estimate reported.

[1]Nonmedical use of marijuana or hashish, cocaine (including crack), inhalants, hallucinogens (including PCP), heroin, or psychotherapeutics at least once.

[2]Nonmedical use of any prescription-type stimulant, sedative, tranquilizer, or analgesic; does not include over-the-counter drugs.

[3]Estimates prior to 1979 for alcohol, and 1982 for psychotherapeutics, may not be comparable to those for later years due to a change in methodology.

[4]For 1979, includes only persons who ever smoked at least five packs.

ϒThe exclusion of inhalants in 1982 is believed to have resulted in underestimates in any illicit use for that year, especially for 12- to 17-year-olds.

+Difference between 1988 and 1990 statistically significant at the .05 level.

++Difference between 1988 and 1990 statistically significant at the .01 level.

+++Difference between 1988 and 1990 statistically significant at the .001 level.

Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1972-1990.

Table A.12 Trends in Percentage of Persons Aged 26 and Older Reporting Drug Use in the Past Year: 1972-1990

Drug (Unweighted N)	1972 (1,613)	1974 (2,221)	1976 (1,708)	1977 (1,822)	1979 (3,015)	1982 (2,760)	1985 (3,979)	1988 (4,214)	1990 (5,030)
Any Illicit Drug Use[1]	--	--	--	--	10.0	11.8ϒ	13.3	10.2	10.1
Marijuana/Hashish	--	3.8	5.4	6.4	9.0	10.6	9.5	6.9	7.3
Cocaine	--	*	0.6	0.9	2.0	3.8	4.2	2.7	2.4
Inhalants	--	*	*	*	1.0	--	0.8	0.4	0.5
Hallucinogens	--	*	*	*	0.5	0.8	1.0	0.6	0.4
Heroin	--	*	*	*	*	*	*	0.2	0.1
Nonmedical Use of Any Psychotherapeutics[2,3]	--	--	--	--	2.3	3.1	6.2	4.7	3.4+
Stimulants	--	*	0.8	0.8	1.3	1.7	2.6	1.7	1.0+
Sedatives	--	*	0.6	*	0.8	1.4	2.0	1.2	0.8
Tranquilizers	--	*	1.2	1.1	0.9	1.1	2.8	1.8	1.0++
Analgesics	--	--	--	--	0.5	1.0	2.9	2.1	1.9
Alcohol[3]	--	62.7	64.2	65.8	72.4	72.0	73.6	68.6	66.6
Cigarettes[4]	--	--	--	--	39.7	38.2	36.0	33.6	31.9

-- Estimate not available.

*Low precision; no estimate reported.

[1]Nonmedical use of marijuana or hashish, cocaine (including crack), inhalants, hallucinogens (including PCP), heroin, or psychotherapeutics at least once.

[2]Nonmedical use of any prescription-type stimulant, sedative, tranquilizer, or analgesic; does not include over-the-counter drugs.

[3]Estimates prior to 1979 for alcohol, and 1982 for psychotherapeutics, may not be comparable to those for later years due to a change in methodology.

[4]For 1979, includes only persons who ever smoked at least five packs.

ϒThe exclusion of inhalants in 1982 is believed to have resulted in underestimates in any illicit use for that year, especially for 12- to 17-year-olds.

+Difference between 1988 and 1990 statistically significant at the .05 level.

++Difference between 1988 and 1990 statistically significant at the .01 level.

+++Difference between 1988 and 1990 statistically significant at the .001 level.

Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1972-1990.

Table A.13 Trends in Percentage of Persons Aged 26 and Older Reporting Drug Use in the Past Month: 1972-1990

Drug (Unweighted N)	1972 (1,613)	1974 (2,221)	1976 (1,708)	1977 (1,822)	1979 (3,015)	1982 (2,760)	1985 (3,979)	1988 (4,214)	1990 (5,030)
Any Illicit Drug Use[1]	--	--	--	--	6.5	7.5ϒ	8.5	4.9	4.6
Marijuana/Hashish	2.5	2.0	3.5	3.3	6.0	6.6	6.1	3.9	3.6
Cocaine	--	*	*	*	0.9	1.2	2.0	0.9	0.6+
Inhalants	--	*	*	*	0.5	--	0.5	0.2	*
Hallucinogens	--	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	0.1
Heroin	--	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Nonmedical Use of Any Psychotherapeutics[2,3]	--	--	--	--	1.1	1.2	2.5	1.2	1.0
Stimulants	--	*	*	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.3
Sedatives	--	*	0.5	*	*	*	0.6	0.3	0.1
Tranquilizers	--	*	*	*	*	*	1.0	0.6	0.2+
Analgesics	--	--	--	--	*	*	0.9	0.4	0.6
Alcohol[3]	--	54.5	56.0	54.9	61.3	59.8	60.6	54.8	52.3
Cigarettes[4]	--	39.1	38.4	38.7	36.9	34.6	32.8	29.8	27.7

– Estimate not available.

*Low precision; no estimate reported.

[1]Nonmedical use of marijuana or hashish, cocaine (including crack), inhalants, hallucinogens (including PCP), heroin, or psychotherapeutics at least once.

[2]Nonmedical use of any prescription-type stimulant, sedative, tranquilizer, or analgesic; does not include over-the-counter drugs.

[3]Estimates prior to 1979 for alcohol, and 1982 for psychotherapeutics, may not be comparable to those for later years due to a change in methodology.

[4]For 1979, includes only persons who ever smoked at least five packs.

ϒThe exclusion of inhalants in 1982 is believed to have resulted in underestimates in any illicit use for that year, especially for 12- to 17-year-olds.

+Difference between 1988 and 1990 statistically significant at the .05 level.

++Difference between 1988 and 1990 statistically significant at the .01 level.

+++Difference between 1988 and 1990 statistically significant at the .001 level.

Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1972-1990.

Table A.14 Trends in Percentage of Persons Aged 26 to 34 and Persons Aged 35 and Older Reporting Drug Use in the Lifetime: 1988 and 1990

Drug (Unweighted N)	Age Group (Years)/Survey Year					
	26-34 Years		≥35 Years		Total ≥26 Years	
	1988 (1,987)	1990 (2,355)	1988 (2,227)	1990 (2,675)	1988 (4,214)	1990 (5,030)
Any Illicit Drug Use[1]	64.2	62.6	23.0	25.9	33.7	35.3
Marijuana/ Hashish	62.1	60.8	19.6	21.9	30.7	31.8
Cocaine	26.5	25.6	4.0	5.9+	9.9	10.9
Hallucinogens	17.7	15.7	2.7	4.5++	6.6	7.4
Heroin	2.1	1.4	0.8	0.7	1.1	0.9
Nonmedical Use of Any Psychotherapeutics[2]	22.1	19.6	7.5	8.7	11.3	11.5
Stimulants	15.4	13.4	3.6	4.6	6.6	6.9
Sedatives	7.9	7.0	1.7	2.6+	3.3	3.7
Tranquilizers	9.3	8.2	2.9	2.9	4.5	4.2
Analgesics	9.7	8.1	2.6	4.1+	4.5	5.1
Alcohol	93.3	92.0	87.0	85.0	88.6	86.8
Cigarettes	80.8	79.8	79.2	77.4	79.6	78.0

[1]Nonmedical use of marijuana or hashish, cocaine (including crack), inhalants, hallucinogens (including PCP), heroin, or psychotherapeutics at least once.

[2]Nonmedical use of any prescription-type stimulant, sedative, tranquilizer, or analgesic; does not include over-the-counter drugs.

+Difference between 1988 and 1990 statistically significant at the .05 level.

++Difference between 1988 and 1990 statistically significant at the .01 level.

+++Difference between 1988 and 1990 statistically significant at the .001 level.

Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1988 and 1990.

Table A.15 Trends in Percentage of Persons Aged 26 to 34 and Persons Aged 35 and Older Reporting Drug Use in the Past Year: 1988 and 1990

Drug (Unweighted N)	Age Group (Years)/Survey Year					
	26-34 Years		≥35 Years		Total ≥26 Years	
	1988 (1,987)	1990 (2,355)	1988 (2,227)	1990 (2,675)	1988 (4,214)	1990 (5,030)
Any Illicit Drug Use[1]	22.6	21.9	5.8	6.0	10.2	10.1
Marijuana/Hashish	17.6	18.0	3.2	3.6	6.9	7.3
Cocaine	8.0	6.8	0.9	0.9	2.7	2.4
Hallucinogens	1.7	1.0	*	0.2	0.6	0.4
Heroin	0.5	0.2	*	*	0.2	0.1
Nonmedical Use of Any Psychotherapeutics[2]	9.8	5.7+++	2.9	2.6	4.7	3.4+
Stimulants	4.9	2.7++	0.5	0.4	1.7	1.0+
Sedatives	2.0	1.0+	0.9	0.7	1.2	0.8
Tranquilizers	3.7	2.1+	1.2	0.7	1.8	1.0++
Analgesics	4.1	2.8	1.4	1.6	2.1	1.9
Alcohol	80.5	78.8	64.4	62.5	68.6	66.6
Cigarettes	42.8	43.5	30.4	27.9	33.6	31.9

*Low precision; no estimate reported.

[1]Nonmedical use of marijuana or hashish, cocaine (including crack), inhalants, hallucinogens (including PCP), heroin, or psychotherapeutics at least once.

[2]Nonmedical use of any prescription-type stimulant, sedative, tranquilizer, or analgesic; does not include over-the-counter drugs.

+Difference between 1988 and 1990 statistically significant at the .05 level.

++Difference between 1988 and 1990 statistically significant at the .01 level.

+++Difference between 1988 and 1990 statistically significant at the .001 level.

Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1988 and 1990.

Table A.16 Trends in Percentage of Persons Aged 26 to 34 and Persons Aged 35 and Older Reporting Drug Use in the Past Month: 1988 and 1990

Drug (Unweighted N)	Age Group (Years)/Survey Year					
	26-34 Years		≥35 Years		Total ≥26 Years	
	1988 (1,987)	1990 (2,355)	1988 (2,227)	1990 (2,675)	1988 (4,214)	1990 (5,030)
Any Illicit Drug Use[1]	13.0	9.8+	2.1	2.8	4.9	4.6
Marijuana/Hashish	10.8	8.6	1.4	1.9	3.9	3.6
Cocaine	2.6	1.7	0.3	0.2	0.9	0.6+
Hallucinogens	*	*	*	*	*	0.1
Heroin	*	*	*	*	*	*
Nonmedical Use of Any Psychotherapeutics[2]	2.7	1.6+	0.7	0.8	1.2	1.0
Stimulants	0.9	0.7	0.4	*	0.5	0.3
Sedatives	0.6	*	*	*	0.3	0.1
Tranquilizers	1.2	0.5+	*	*	0.6	0.2+
Analgesics	0.9	0.7	*	0.6	0.4	0.6
Alcohol	64.2	63.3	51.5	48.6	54.8	52.3
Cigarettes	37.1	37.5	27.3	24.3	29.8	27.7

*Low precision; no estimate reported.

[1]Nonmedical use of marijuana or hashish, cocaine (including crack), inhalants, hallucinogens (including PCP), heroin, or psychotherapeutics at least once.

[2]Nonmedical use of any prescription-type stimulant, sedative, tranquilizer, or analgesic; does not include over-the-counter drugs.

+Difference between 1988 and 1990 statistically significant at the .05 level.

++Difference between 1988 and 1990 statistically significant at the .01 level.

+++Difference between 1988 and 1990 statistically significant at the .001 level.

Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1988 and 1990.

Table A.17 Percentage Reporting Marijuana Use in the Past Month, by Age Group and Demographic Characteristics: 1990

Demographic Characteristic	Age Group (Years)				
	12-17	18-25	26-34	≥35	Total
Total	5.2	12.7	8.6	1.9	5.1
Sex					
Male	6.0	16.5	9.7	2.5	6.4
Female	4.3	9.1	7.5	1.4	3.9
Race/Ethnicity[1]					
White	5.9	13.8	8.3	1.8	5.0
Black	3.4	12.6	13.5	2.7	6.7
Hispanic	4.3	8.2	7.2	1.9	4.7
Population Density					
Large Metropolitan	4.2	14.5	9.1	2.1	5.6
Small Metropolitan	6.2	13.1	8.8	1.9	5.1
Nonmetropolitan	5.4	8.4	7.3	*	4.0
Region					
Northeast	5.9	15.4	10.2	1.9	5.5
North Central	5.3	12.4	9.7	2.2	5.7
South	5.1	10.2	8.0	0.9	4.0
West	4.4	15.0	7.0	3.2	5.7

*Low precision; no estimate reported.

[1]The category "Other" for Race/Ethnicity is not included.

Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1990.

Table A.18 Percentage Distributions of Past Month Users of Selected Illicit Drugs, by Demographic Characteristics: 1990

Demographic Characteristic	Past Month Users			
	Any Illicit Drugs	Marijuana	Cocaine	Psycho-therapeutic
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Sex				
Male	58.8	60.0	65.4	47.9
Female	41.2	40.0	34.6	52.1
Race/Ethnicity				
White	75.6	76.8	57.3	73.0
Black	15.1	15.0	24.4	16.5
Hispanic	8.0	7.3	18.3	8.9
Other	1.2	1.0	0.0	1.6
Population Density				
Large Metropolitan	48.9	47.8	55.4	50.2
Small Metropolitan	32.6	34.4	26.4	27.5
Nonmetropolitan	18.4	17.8	18.2	22.3
Region				
Northeast	20.3	21.8	23.8	13.2
North Central	25.4	26.5	22.0	26.9
South	30.2	27.9	31.7	37.8
West	24.1	23.8	22.6	22.0

Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1990.

Table A.19 Percentage Reporting Cocaine Use in the Past Month, by Age Group and Demographic Characteristics: 1990

Demographic Characteristic	Age Group (Years)				
	12-17	18-25	26-34	≥35	Total
Total	0.6	2.2	1.7	0.2	0.8
Sex					
Male	0.7	2.8	2.4	*	1.1
Female	*	1.6	1.1	*	0.5
Race/Ethnicity[1]					
White	0.4	1.9	1.3	*	0.6
Black	*	3.6	4.2	*	1.7
Hispanic	*	3.1	2.5	*	1.9
Population Density					
Large Metropolitan	*	2.6	2.6	*	1.0
Small Metropolitan	*	1.5	1.2	*	0.6
Nonmetropolitan	*	2.5	*	*	0.6
Region					
Northeast	*	*	2.8	*	0.9
North Central	*	2.2	*	*	0.7
South	0.6	2.1	1.4	*	0.7
West	*	2.2	2.3	*	0.9

*Low precision; no estimate reported.

[1]The category "Other" for Race/Ethnicity is not included.

Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1990.

Table A.20 Percentage Reporting Crack Use in the Lifetime, Past Year, and Past Month, by Age Group: 1990

Age Group (Years)	Lifetime	Past Year	Past Month
Total	1.4	0.5	0.2
12-17	1.0	0.7	*
18-25	2.8	1.4	0.7
26-34	3.1	1.0	0.6
≥35	0.5	*	*

*Low precision; no estimate reported.

Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1990.

Table A.21 Percentage Reporting Nonmedical Use of Any Prescription-type Psychotherapeutic Drugs in the Past Month, by Age Group and Demographic Characteristics: 1990

Demographic Characteristic	Age Group (Years)				
	12-17	18-25	26-34	≥35	Total
Total	2.7	2.6	1.6	0.8	1.4
Sex					
Male	2.3	2.3	1.6	1.0	1.4
Female	3.1	2.9	1.6	0.7	1.4
Race/Ethnicity[1]					
White	3.0	2.8	1.7	0.6	1.3
Black	1.7	*	2.0	2.3	2.1
Hispanic	2.6	2.9	0.9	1.1	1.6
Population Density					
Large Metropolitan	1.5	3.5	1.5	1.2	1.6
Small Metropolitan	3.0	2.0	1.5	*	1.1
Nonmetropolitan	4.2	1.6	1.9	*	1.4
Region					
Northeast	*	2.2	1.4	*	0.9
North Central	5.4	2.8	2.0	*	1.6
South	3.2	2.2	1.9	1.0	1.5
West	*	3.3	*	1.4	1.5

Note: Psychotherapeutic drugs are any prescription-type stimulant, sedative, tranquilizer, or analgesic used for nonmedical reasons; over-the-counter drugs are not included.

*Low precision; no estimate reported.

[1]The category "Other" for Race/Ethnicity is not included.

Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1990.

Table A.22 Percentage Reporting Alcohol Use in the Past Month, by Age Group and Demographic Characteristics: 1990

Demographic Characteristic	Age Group (Years)				Total
	12-17	18-25	26-34	≥35	
Total	24.5	63.3	63.3	48.6	51.2
Sex					
Male	25.3	73.7	71.7	56.7	58.9
Female	23.7	53.3	55.2	41.5	44.1
Race/Ethnicity[1]					
White	28.0	65.8	65.0	50.3	53.1
Black	15.4	58.9	61.2	38.8	43.7
Hispanic	19.3	57.2	59.4	44.8	47.1
Population Density					
Large Metropolitan	24.1	66.6	68.7	54.6	56.4
Small Metropolitan	25.8	64.9	60.8	50.1	51.7
Nonmetropolitan	23.4	54.1	55.5	35.0	40.2
Region					
Northeast	24.8	72.8	71.4	58.6	59.5
North Central	24.4	70.6	65.9	52.2	55.0
South	26.1	53.4	58.0	36.9	42.4
West	21.6	62.6	62.5	53.6	53.5

[1]The category "Other" for Race/Ethnicity is not included.

Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1990.

Table A.23 Percentage Reporting Cigarette Use in the Past Month, by Age Group and Demographic Characteristics: 1990

Demographic Characteristic	Age Group (Years)				Total
	12-17	18-25	26-34	≥35	
Total	11.6	31.5	37.5	24.3	26.7
Sex					
Male	12.3	36.1	39.9	27.1	29.4
Female	11.0	27.1	35.2	22.0	24.2
Race/Ethnicity[1]					
White	13.6	34.5	38.7	24.3	27.4
Black	4.2	21.2	40.9	29.0	26.7
Hispanic	10.7	24.7	27.3	18.7	20.8
Population Density					
Large Metropolitan	10.8	29.6	34.3	21.8	24.5
Small Metropolitan	12.0	32.9	35.2	25.6	27.1
Nonmetropolitan	12.6	33.4	47.6	27.1	30.2
Region					
Northeast	11.5	29.4	33.8	22.7	24.4
North Central	14.1	36.3	38.0	24.4	28.0
South	12.1	31.3	44.1	27.6	29.8
West	8.1	27.7	29.1	20.6	22.1

[1]The category "Other" for Race/Ethnicity is not included.

Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1990.

Table A.24 Percentage Reporting Patterns of Drug Use in the Past Year, by Age Group: 1990

Patterns of Use	Age Group (Years) 12-17	18-25	26-34	≥35	Total
Alcohol Only	26.8	52.3	57.9	57.2	53.6
Illicit Drugs[1] Only	1.8	0.8	1.0	0.7	0.9
Marijuana only	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.2	0.4
Psychotherapeutics[2] only	0.9	*	*	0.5	0.5
Other drugs and drug combinations	0.4	*	*	*	0.1
Alcohol and Illicit Drugs	14.1	27.9	20.9	5.3	12.4
Alcohol & marijuana only	4.9	13.3	11.7	2.5	6.0
Alcohol & psychotherapeutics only	2.0	2.0	1.6	1.5	1.6
Alcohol & other drugs and drug combinations	7.3	12.5	8.2	1.3	4.8
Used Only 1 Substance[3]	28.4	52.9	58.9	57.9	54.4
Used Only 2 Different Substances	8.1	17.1	14.2	4.3	8.4
Used 3 or More Different Substances	6.3	11.0	6.8	1.0	4.1

*Low precision; no estimate reported.

[1]Nonmedical use of marijuana or hashish, cocaine (including crack), inhalants, hallucinogens (including PCP), heroin, or psychotherapeutics at least once.

[2]Nonmedical use of any prescription-type stimulant, sedative, tranquilizer, or analgesic; does not include over-the-counter drugs.

[3]A "substance" is defined as any one of the following types of drugs: alcohol, marijuana, hallucinogens, cocaine, heroin, inhalants, and nonmedical use of prescription-type psychotherapeutics.

Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1990.

Table A.25 Percentage Reporting Perceptions of Great Risk of Using Selected Illicit Drugs, Alcohol, or Cigarettes, by Age Group: 1990

Risk Behavior	Age Group (Years) 12-17	18-25	26-34	≥35	Total Percent	(Unweighted N)
Marijuana						
Smoke once or twice	35.5	21.9	22.7	46.0	36.9	(9,192)
Smoke occasionally	51.9	30.1	31.1	52.5	45.0	(9,185)
Smoke regularly	84.8	72.1	66.9	84.7	79.5	(9,191)
Cocaine						
Try once or twice	54.8	54.7	61.1	77.3	68.6	(9,171)
Use occasionally	80.4	79.1	77.7	86.8	83.3	(9,178)
Use regularly	93.8	95.4	95.6	97.4	96.4	(9,182)
Use "crack" occasionally	75.7	81.4	85.8	90.5	86.8	(9,123)
Heroin						
Try once or twice	48.7	63.7	77.0	82.7	75.4	(9,168)
Use regularly	89.8	94.4	97.4	97.7	96.4	(9,175)
Alcohol						
One or two drinks nearly every day	35.1	31.6	32.9	43.5	38.9	(9,150)
Four or five drinks nearly every day	67.9	67.3	73.1	81.6	76.5	(9,157)
Five or more drinks once or twice a week	59.1	53.3	57.2	69.7	63.8	(9,163)
Cigarettes						
Smoke one or more packs per day	48.1	57.4	63.9	67.4	63.4	(9,215)

Note: Questions asked were: How much do you think people risk harming themselves physically and in other ways when they do each of the following activities? Response choices for each of 14 activities were: (1) no risk, (2) slight risk, (3) moderate risk, and (4) great risk.

The unweighted Ns for each age group are smaller than those shown in Table A.1 because of differing patterns of nonresponse to the risk questions across age groups.

Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1990.

Table A.26 Trends in Percentage of Persons Aged 18 to 25 Reporting Opportunity to Use Marijuana and Lifetime Use of Marijuana: 1972-1990

Survey Year	Exposure To Marijuana	
	Opportunity to Use*	Lifetime Use
1972	68	47.9
1974	72	52.7
1976	78	52.9
1977	81	59.9
1979	84	68.2
1982	87	64.1
1985	79	60.3
1988	80	56.4
1990	75	52.2

*Data for opportunity to use for 1972 to 1982 are reconstructed from graphs in the Highlights from the National Survey on Drug Abuse for 1977, 1979, and 1982.

Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1972-1990.

Table A.27 Percentage Reporting Opportunity and Lifetime Use of Selected Illicit Drugs, by Age Group: 1990

Illicit Drugs	Age Group (Years)				Total	
	12-17	18-25	26-34	≥35	Percent	(Unweighted N)
Marijuana/Hashish						
Chance to use	36.9	74.9	80.3	36.9	50.8	(9,222)
Ever used	14.8	52.2	60.8	21.9	33.1	(9,259)
Hallucinogens						
Chance to use	8.1	20.8	24.7	8.2	13.2	(9,042)
Ever used	3.3	12.0	15.7	4.5	7.6	(9,259)
Cocaine						
Chance to use	13.9	41.2	44.2	13.4	23.4	(9,185)
Ever used	2.6	19.4	25.6	5.9	11.3	(9,259)
Heroin						
Chance to use	4.3	6.5	7.1	4.2	5.1	(9,175)
Ever used	0.7	0.6	1.4	0.7	0.8	(9,259)

Note: Questions about chance to use were not asked for inhalants, psychotherapeutics, cigarettes, or alcohol.

The unweighted Ns for each age group are smaller than those shown in Table A.1 because of differing patterns of nonresponse to the chance-to-use questions across age groups. There are no missing data for the ever-used category because item nonresponse was eliminated through statistical imputation.

Source: NIDA, National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1990.

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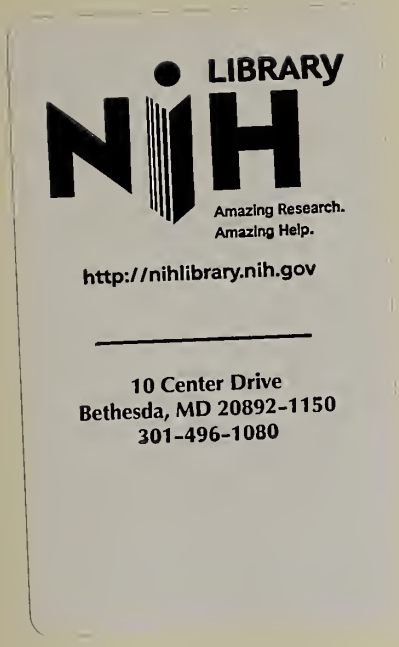

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